

Information for students who are parents



Student Services
Enabling students to
fulfil their potential

Information for students who are parents

Facilities for parents and children on campus

The University offers a range of support for parents and their children. There are baby changing facilities in the male and female toilets on the ground floor of Edward Elgar building opposite EE 162 and in the dining hall there are two high chairs. The University supports Worcestershire's "Breastfeeding Welcome Here" campaign and Breastfeeding Welcome Here stickers are displayed in a number of locations across campus.

Children are welcome in the library, and the Schools Resource Area situated on the first floor has a number of books, including picture books, to keep young children entertained. But do remember that children must be supervised by an adult at all times in the Library.

Support Services such as Counselling, Careers and Welfare and Financial Advice offer telephone and email sessions for students unable to attend appointments on campus. Parents wishing to attend appointments are welcome to bring children.

Unitots is a self-contained nursery situated on the St Johns Campus. It is registered with Ofsted to provide high quality care and education for children from three months to five years through a variety of learning experiences. In addition to its own large outdoor play facility the children are also able to make use of the open spaces on campus for walks, the sports centre for games, and the library for story-telling activities. The nursery is open from 8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. As a student you are able to book in advance for each semester, booking a minimum of three hours at any one time.

The nursery is very popular and there is a waiting list in operation. It is important to register early, as places are offered in order of the date received. If you are allocated a place you will be invited into the nursery to complete registration documents and arrange induction sessions for your child.

Details on fees and further information on the nursery, including the most recent Ofsted report, is available from:

<http://www.worc.ac.uk/student/nursery/143.html> [http](http://www.worc.ac.uk/student/nursery/143.html)



Activities for older children and teenagers are also available on campus.

During the school holidays the University hosts a number of sports camps for children and teenagers. These include basketball coaching and Kings Camps which offer young people the chance to take part in a range of sports and also includes the Rookie Sports Leadership Award for 14-17 year olds.

Some of these activities have subsidised places available for children from families on a low income or who are in need of respite care. Some also accept childcare vouchers.

Information on this, and all sporting activities for children and young people at the University can be obtained from the Sports Centre. email: sportscentre@worc.ac.uk or telephone 01905 855269.



National childcare services and support:

ChildcareLink: Information and advice on childcare.

www.childcarelink.gov.uk or free phone: 0800 096 0296

4Children: A national service offering information on after-school clubs and out-of-school care. www.4children.org.uk or telephone: 0207 512 2100

All 4 kids: A website with information on holiday play schemes and courses for children. www.all4kids.com

Always visit facilities and speak to staff about the care and activities that will be provided for your child. Unless classified as “exempt”, all childcare for children under the age of eight must be registered by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). Registered childcare providers have a legal duty to display their Ofsted certificate in a prominent place.

They should also have a copy of their latest Ofsted inspection report which you are entitled to read. Registered childcare includes childminders and nannies who are registered, all nurseries, playgroups, children’s camps and centres, holiday play schemes, breakfast and after-school clubs, sports, language and arts clubs. For further information about Ofsted see: www.ofsted.gov.uk



Local and national childcare resources

There are a number of different facilities and schemes for school-aged children and teenagers across Worcestershire. These include breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, school holiday play schemes and activity weeks.

Breakfast clubs are a supervised service offered to children before the start of school. Breakfast is usually provided. These are held mainly in schools but also in some community centres.

After-school clubs offer children the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities such as sport, arts and crafts and games. Some clubs also provide assistance with homework and refreshments. They are normally open until 6.00pm.

There are a number of different types of holiday play schemes within Worcestershire. Some offer activities for a day, others for a week or more.

Examples include the Council's 'SK8 and Play' and 'Party in the Park' days, and week long holiday clubs offered by church groups, community centres and sports clubs. Costs vary depending on location, provider and activity. Some activities are free. Financial assistance may also be available from your local authority.

Details of council run play schemes can be obtained from www.whub.org.uk. Events and activities provided by church and community groups are often advertised in the local newspaper, e.g. Worcester News, in the "What's on" section and are also announced on local radio. Another useful source of local information is the Worcestershire Family Information Service who offer free and impartial information to families with children under the age of nineteen.

Visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/familyinfo or telephone: 01905 790 560



Finance and Funding

"I have two children so I knew that money would be tight. To budget I kept my existing account and opened a separate one for my student loan, so that even if it ran out I didn't touch the other account. Many students with children manage to budget successfully, there is a lot of financial support for them and I found the Students' Union and Student Services very helpful..."

Student parent,
University of Worcester

Managing finances can be tough for most students. However, as a student parent it may at times feel overwhelming trying to juggle paying for your course, living expenses and the expenses of your child or children, whether that be buying a school uniform, paying for an after-school club accommodation or finding their pocket money.

As a parent you may be eligible for additional financial support such as child tax credit, childcare grant, parents' learning allowance or a bursary if you are studying for an NHS course such as nursing.

If you would like to know more about which benefits you may be entitled to or need assistance with completing forms, contact Susan Richardson or Jackie Bryant, the University's Student Welfare and

Financial Advisors. In addition to benefit advice they can help you with budgeting, student loans, the Access to Learning Fund and dealing with debt. You can email them at: moneyadvice@worc.ac.uk or telephone Susan on 01905 855501 or Jackie on 01905 542019.

Their webpage: www.worcester.ac.uk/wfa also contains information on welfare benefits, budgeting, and other sources of funding.

Another source of help at the University are The Money Doctors', a service run by the Student Advice Service in the Students' Union. They offer free financial health checks and can also provide advice, information and support on issues such as dealing with creditors, understanding financial terms and conditions and budgeting. To contact them either drop into the Students' Union Monday-to Friday 10am-4pm, telephone 01905 740800 or email thesas@worc.ac.uk.



Did you know that...

... Children are entitled to free school meals if their parents receive the maximum amount of child tax credit? For more information phone HM Revenue and Customs helpline on **0845 300 3900** or visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits

... Children aged three or four are entitled to free early learning at a pre-school setting, e.g. a nursery? For more information contact Childlink on **0800 096 0296** or visit: www.childcarelink.gov.uk

... As a student parent you may also be eligible for income-related benefits such as housing benefit?

... The Access to Learning Fund is a non-repayable grant that can be awarded by the University to students in financial hardship and can help with expenses such as childcare? Information on the fund and application forms, are available from the Student and Welfare Advisors in Student Services.

“Meet the parents”

“Meet the parents” is a report published by the National Union of Students in 2009. It is the first report in the UK that details the experience of students with children in Higher Education. For more information, to view the report and to find out ways in which the National Union of Students is supporting student parents go to www.nus.org.uk. Alternatively, visit the Students’ Union on campus.

Study skills support

Arranging and paying for childcare in order to attend study skills support can be difficult for most parents. In order to address this, the University offers a range of study skills support that can either be accessed on line from the study skills webpage: www.worcester.ac.uk/studyskills or outside of “normal” daytime teaching hours.

Support includes:

Evening Study skills workshops

These start at 6.15pm and finish at 7.45pm. They are on different evenings of the week and are available throughout the academic year. For more information and to book a place, go to the study skills website: www.worcester.ac.uk/studyskills

1:1 support

This is offered by ILS in the Peirson library. Staff there can show you how to find journal articles, use Refworks, web tools and assist you with queries regarding plagiarism and referencing. To book an appointment at a mutually convenient time email: askalibrarian@worc.ac.uk



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<http://www.worc.ac.uk/student/services/>

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