



If you are on a low income and have children at school you may be entitled to financial support.

This booklet covers some of the financial supports available and how to apply for them.

# SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES





# PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BEST START GRANT

### WHAT

The **Best Start Grant School Age Payment** is £294.70 for each child to help with the costs of children starting school. It is up to you what you spend it on, and you don't need to show receipts.

### WHEN

If you are responsible for a child born between:

#### Child's Date of Birth

Between 1 March 2018  
and 28 February 2019

#### When to Apply

Between 1 June 2023  
and 29 February 2024

*You cannot apply outwith these dates*

### WHO

You can claim this payment if you are responsible for a school age child (see above) and you or your partner are entitled to:

- **Universal Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit**
- **Income Support**
- **Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance**
- **Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Housing Benefit**
- **Pension Credit**

You can apply anytime within the **9 month application window**.

If you have become responsible for a child, for instance as a kinship carer, you might qualify for a payment even if a payment has already been made to someone else – as long as you were not that person's partner when they received the grant and the child is not living with that person.

Apply online or download a claim form at **[www.mygov.scot](http://www.mygov.scot)** or call **0800 182 2222** to apply by phone or request a form.





## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

### WHAT

All school children in Primary 1 to 5 are entitled to a Universal free school meal, however to ensure you are eligible to receive payments relating to holiday periods or additional benefits available you must apply. P6 and above must also apply.

### WHEN

To make sure you receive any additional payments or benefits relating to Free School Meals apply from P1 onward.

### WHO

You can claim if you are in receipt of any one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit with a household income of up to £8,717
- Child Tax Credit only with an annual income of less than £18,725
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £726
- Asylum Seekers – A copy of your ARC Card or BAIL201 Letter

Apply online at the school grants section: [www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/17519/Grants-and-Allowances](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/17519/Grants-and-Allowances) Before you start you will be asked to create a mygov.scot account (if you don't already have one) for which you need an email address

## SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT

### WHAT

The School Clothing Grant is an annual payment of £120 towards the cost of essential school clothing.

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### WHO

You can claim if you are in receipt of any one of the following:

- Any amount of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction
- OR
- Income Support
- Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
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- Support under Part VI of the immigration and asylum act 1999





## SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT

### WHAT

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the cost of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £25 that you can get for every child you look after who is under 16 years of age.

### WHEN

Scottish child payment is available for any child you look after who is under 16 years of age.

### WHO

You can apply whether you are in work or not, as long as you are getting one of these:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit
- Income Support
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- Pension Credit

For further information and to apply online visit [www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment](http://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment) To apply by telephone phone **Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222**. The opening times are Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm.

## SCOTTISH CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT

### WHAT

Child Disability Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have.

Child Disability Payment is tax-free and made up of two components:

- Care
- Mobility

Payments range from £26.90 up to £101.75 per week depending on the award.

### WHEN

You can apply for Child Disability Payment for a disabled child under 16. The disability can be mental or physical.

### WHO

Any adult with parental responsibilities and rights or a guardian can apply for Scottish Child payment on behalf of the child.

For further information and to apply online visit [www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment](http://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment) To apply by telephone phone **Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222**. The opening times are Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm.





## UNDER 22 FREE BUS TRAVEL

### WHAT

Young people aged 5 to 21, who live in Scotland for at least 6 months a year, can apply for a free bus pass. Eligible children will receive a national entitlement card that enables free bus travel on most bus services in Scotland.

### WHEN

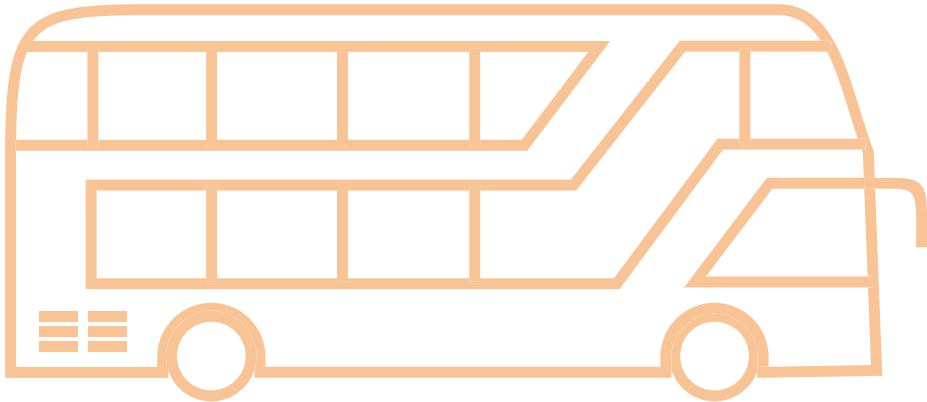
Children aged 5 -15 years old and young people aged 16 – 21.

### WHO

Young people aged 5 to 21, who live in Scotland for at least 6 months a year can apply for an under 22s bus pass.

- **Parents or guardians must apply on behalf of 5-15 year olds.**
- **Young people who are 16-21 years old can apply themselves.**
- **Children under 5 years old already travel for free on buses and don't need a card.**
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# COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION

## WHAT

Council Tax Reduction can help people who are on low income with the cost of the Council Tax bill for their normal home. You can claim it whether you are working, unemployed, retired or a carer. The amount you receive will depend on your income and household circumstances. Council Tax Reduction cannot help with the water and sewerage part of your Council Tax Bill.

## WHEN

Council Tax Reduction can be claimed at any time.

## WHO

You might be eligible to pay less Council Tax if you:

- live in the property as your main home - sometimes you may have to work elsewhere but the property where you pay council tax is your main home
- are liable to pay Council Tax - usually the person named on the bill
- have income below a certain amount - eligibility can also be affected by your household circumstances
- have capital below a certain amount - capital includes savings and some other types of property. If you're part of a couple, the capital of both of you is taken into account. Your capital must be £16,000 or less, unless you're entitled to the guarantee credit part of Pension Credit
- meet the residence rules - be in Great Britain with the correct rights to be here

You can find out what you will be entitled to and apply online by using the Council Tax reduction calculator/application form at [www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=21946](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=21946)





# SECONDARY SCHOOL

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

### WHAT

Secondary school pupils through Fuel Zone choices have access to Fuel Zones, cafes and external food huts. The current cost of a secondary school meal is £1.90 per day. If you qualify for free school meals you can save approx. £370 per year.

### WHEN

From S1 onward you must apply for Free School Meals.

### WHO

You can claim if you are in receipt of any one of the following:

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### WHAT

The School Clothing Grant is an annual payment of £150 towards the cost of essential school clothing.

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From when your child starts school or if your circumstances change to any of the qualifying criteria.

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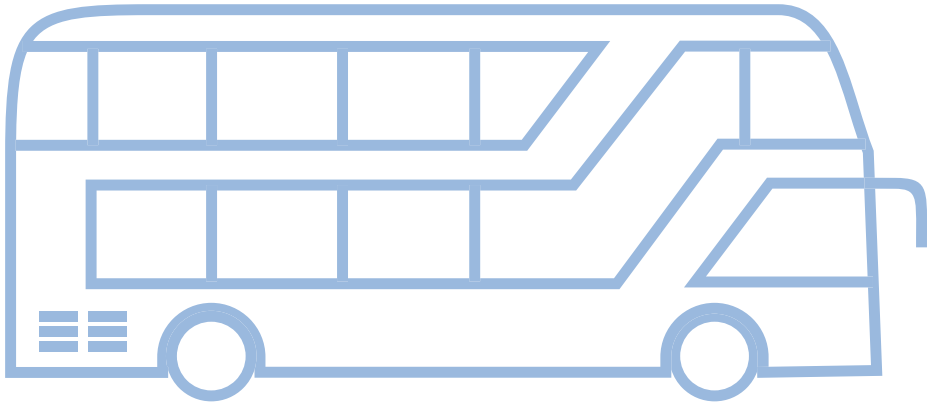
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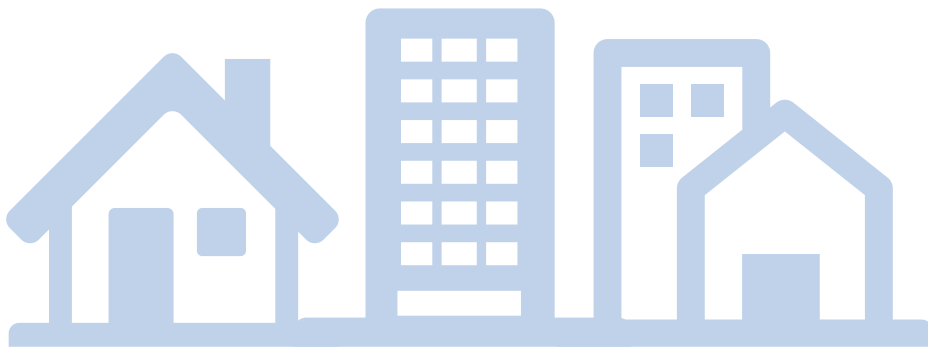
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# EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

## WHAT

An Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly allowance of £30 paid to the young person during the school year. (During Term Time)

It is paid on a two weekly basis.

## WHEN

An EMA provides financial support for 16-19 year olds who stay on at school. You should apply as soon as you become eligible as payment may not be backdated.

## WHO

A young person aged 16-19 who attends a Glasgow School for a minimum of 21 hours per week.

The young person qualifies if your annual household income is:

Household Income	No of dependent Children in Household
£0 - £24,421	1
£0 - £26,884	2+

Dependent children are those up to the age of 16 and those over the age of 16 and up to the age of 25 if they are in full time further or higher education.

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# YOUNG CARER GRANT

## WHAT

The Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £359.65 for young carers in Scotland. How the grant is spent is up to you, there is no need to provide receipts.

## WHEN

To be able to get a Young Carer Grant, you must:

- Be 16, 17 or 18 years old
- Have been caring for 1,2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours per week for at least the last 3 months

If you care for more than one person, you can combine the hours of the people you care for to average 16 hours per week.

## WHO

You can get a Young Carer Grant if all of these apply

- You're 16, 17 or 18 years old
- You've been caring for one or more people for around 16 hours per week for the last 3 months
- The person or people you care for get certain benefits
- you're not being paid to care for someone you will use in your application as part of your job
- you're not helping care for the people you apply for as a volunteer, for example as part of a care group or charity
- you're not already getting Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions

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## STATE BENEFITS/ALLOWANCES

### WHAT

If the young person stays on at school you may still be able to receive **Child Benefit** and a **Child Element top-up** to either your **Child Tax Credit** or **Universal Credit** even if they have reached the age of 16.

This can be as much as **£24.00** per week for Child Benefit and **£72.69 per week** for Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit

### WHEN

These entitlements can continue from when the young person turns 16 until the September following their 19th birthday providing the course they are doing is non-advanced (Studying Highers or less) and it is considered to be a full time course (at least 12 hours per week)

### WHO

**Child Benefit and the Child element top-up to either Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit normally stops on the 31 August following your young person's 16th birthday.**

**Providing you continue to meet the qualifying conditions for Child Benefit, Child Tax Credits or Universal Credit and your young person is on a course of non-advanced study (Studying Highers or less) and it is considered to be a full time course (at least 12 hours per week)**

**You must tell Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit or your work coach at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for Universal Credit.**

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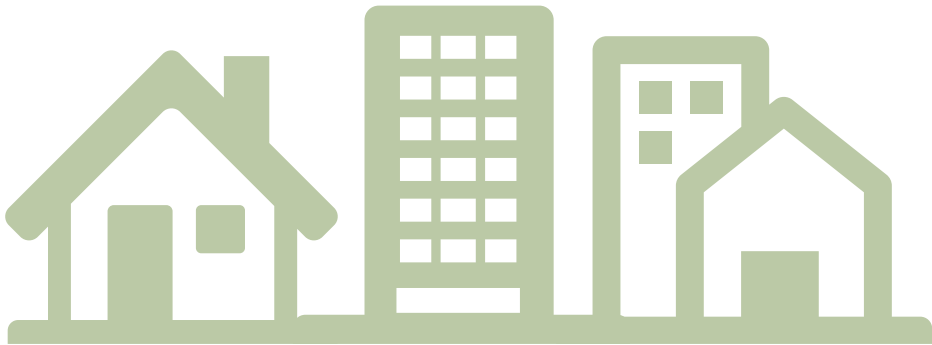
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What you get...	BEST START GRANT	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT	EMA
	£267.65 payment	Saving £370.50 per year	£120 Primary £150 Secondary	£30 per week
<b>When you can get it...</b>				
	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Primary School</b>			✓	
<b>Secondary School</b>		✓	✓	
<b>Staying On</b>		✓	✓	✓
<b>Qualifying Criteria...</b>				
Income Support	✓	✓	✓	✓
Income Based Job Seekers Allowance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Income Related Employment Support Allowance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Housing Benefit	✓		✓	✓
Council Tax Reduction			✓	✓
Pension Credit	✓			
Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit	✓			
Both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit with an annual income of up to £8,717		✓	✓	







# NOT SURE



# JUST ASK

For details on how to receive **Free Advice** on anything you have read in this booklet please see Page 11





## WHO CAN HELP?



Many families don't get all the financial assistance and benefits they are entitled to. This may be because they are unaware of their entitlement, the rules are complex or because they have been wrongly refused.

If you are on a low income you may be able to get some help even if you haven't claimed before or if you think you won't qualify.

If a member of your family has a disability or long term health condition, or is an unpaid carer for someone, you may be able to get some extra help – for example

parents of disabled children can get disability benefits without taking into account their income.

If you have a low income or are affected by or have a child or young person affected by disability or ill health or feel you would like some additional information regarding your financial situation it may be worth speaking to the Financial Inclusion Support Officer (FISO).

The FISO is provided in partnership with the advice service Citizen's Advice Bureaux and can be reached as follows:

**Financial Inclusion Support Officer Louise Monaghan**

**Phone** GEMAP **0141 773 5850** (open 09:00 – 17:00 Mon-Fri)

**Email** [GlasgowSchools@gemap.co.uk](mailto:GlasgowSchools@gemap.co.uk)



