



# SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

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



# PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BEST START GRANT

### WHAT

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is **£252.50** 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 your child's date of birth is between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017, then you can apply between the 1 June 2021 and 28 February 2022.

If your child's date of birth is between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018 then you can apply between 1 June 2022 and 28 February 2023

You cannot apply out with these dates.

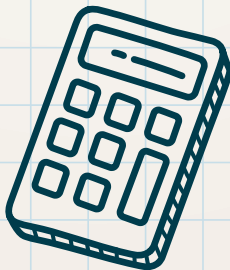
### WHO

You can claim this payment if you are responsible for a school age child (see previous information on application dates) and you or your partner are entitled to one or more of the following benefits listed below:

- 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/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/how-to-apply](http://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/how-to-apply)** or call **0800 182 2222** to apply by phone or request a form.



# FREE SCHOOL MEALS

## WHAT

The School Meals Catering Service provides meals for all schools in the city. The service aims to provide nutritious, well presented meal choices daily, promote the healthier options and actively encourage their uptake and provide a service that meets the highest health and safety standards.

Currently Primary school meals cost **£2.20**. If you qualify for free school meals, you can save approximately **£431** per year.

## WHEN

From January 2022, all primary school pupils from P1 to P5 presently receive a free school meal.

If a child is in P1 to P5 and the parent/carer meets the eligibility criteria due to low income, the parent/carer should apply for Free School Meals in order to receive vouchers during the holidays or periods of home learning. Access is also given to the Scottish Government Scottish Child Bridging Payments.



## WHO

Pupils are eligible for free school meals if their parents or carers receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Guaranteed Pension Credits
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £7,500
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income from your employer of not more than £625
- Universal Credit, with a single parent/carer working less than 16 hours per week with an annual earned income from employment of less than £16,105
- Universal Credit, with both parents/carers working less than 24 hours per week with an annual earned income from employment of less than £16,105

Apply online:  
[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

# SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT

## WHAT

We can, in some circumstances, provide a grant towards the costs of school clothing and footwear if you receive certain benefits.

The current grant is **£120** towards the costs of essential school clothing. For pupils of statutory school age, the grant is paid to parents/carers; for pupils over statutory school age the grant is paid to the student.

## WHO

You can apply for a school clothing grant if you or your family receive any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's
- Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your annual income is under £7,500
- Universal Credit, and your monthly earned income is not more than £625
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction

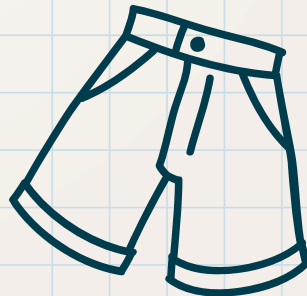
## WHEN

You can only apply for children attending school or about to enter Primary 1. If you are an eligible student who receives an Education Maintenance Allowance you can apply for a school clothing grant for yourself.

Applications for session 2021/2022 can be made from 1 April 2021.

Apply online:

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant)



# SECONDARY SCHOOL

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

### WHAT

The current cost of a secondary school meal is **£2.45** per day. If you qualify for free school meals, you can save approximately **£470** per year.

### WHEN

To receive free school meals in secondary school you must make an application. There is currently no automatic entitlement to this.



### WHO

Pupils are eligible for free school meals if their parents or carers receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Guaranteed Pension Credits
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £16,105
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £7,500
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- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income from your employer of not more than £625
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# SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT

## WHAT

We can, in some circumstances, provide a grant towards the costs of school clothing and footwear if you receive certain benefits.

The current grant is **£150** towards the costs of essential school clothing. For pupils of statutory school age, the grant is paid to parents/carers; for pupils over statutory school age the grant is paid to the student.

## WHEN

From when your child starts school or if your circumstances change to any of the qualifying criteria. If you are an eligible student who receives an Education Maintenance Allowance you can apply for a school clothing grant for yourself.

Applications for session 2021/2022 can be made from 1 April 2021.

## WHO

You can apply for a school clothing grant if you or your family receive any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your annual income is under £7,500
- Universal Credit, and your monthly earned income is not more than £625
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
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Apply online:

**[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant)**



# STAYING ON AT SCHOOL

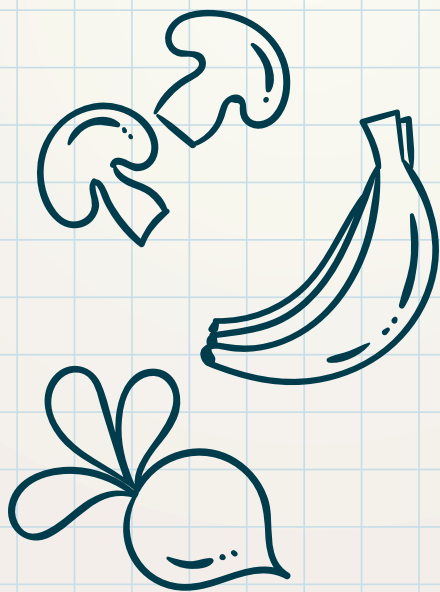
## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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## WHEN

From when your child starts school or if your circumstances change to any of the qualifying criteria. If you are an eligible student who receives an Education Maintenance Allowance you can apply for a school clothing grant for yourself.

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Apply online:

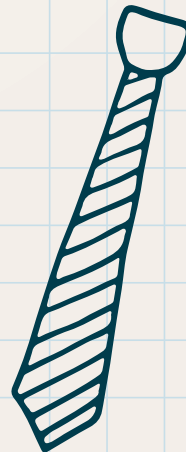
**[www.aberdeency.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant](http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant)**



## WHO

You can apply for a school clothing grant if you or your family receive any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your annual income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your annual income is under £7,500
- Universal Credit, and your monthly earned income is not more than £625
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction





# EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

## 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 every 2 weeks.

## WHEN

The EMA is paid every two weeks. Applications should be made for this payment as soon as the pupil becomes eligible.

A young person becomes eligible for an EMA in August if they reach their 16th Birthday between 1st March and 30th September and apply in January should their 16th Birthday fall between 1st October and the last day in February.

## WHO

To be eligible for an EMA in 2021/22 the young person must:

- Have been born between 1 March 2002 and 28 February 2006
- Be in full-time non-advanced education (up to SVQ level 3).

The young person qualifies if your annual household income is:

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

Apply online:

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/educationmaintenanceallowance](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/educationmaintenanceallowance)



# YOUNG CARERS GRANT

## WHAT

The Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of **£308.15** 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:

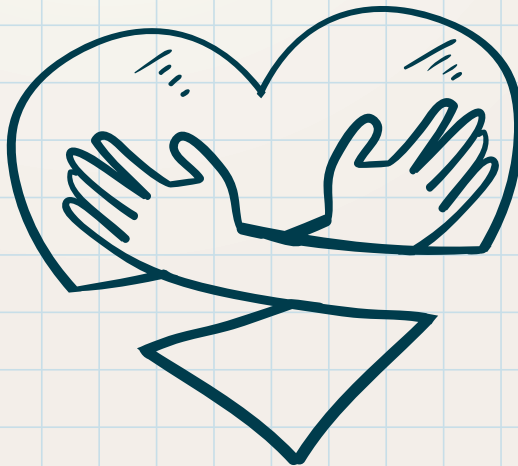
- Be 16, 17 or 18 years old
- Have been caring for 1,2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours per week for at least the last 3 months.

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 are 16, 17 or 18 years old
- You have 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 are not being paid to care for someone you will use in your application as part of your job
- You are not helping care for the people you apply for as a volunteer, for example as part of a care group or charity
- You are not already getting Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions



# STATE BENEFITS/ALLOWANCES

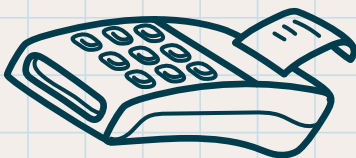
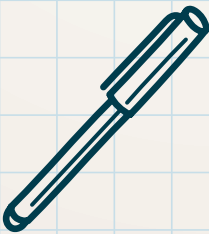
## WHAT

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 **£21.15** per week for Child Benefit and **£63.94** 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 enrolled in 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 notify 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.

## Child Benefit

Online:

[www.gov.uk/report-changes-child-benefit](http://www.gov.uk/report-changes-child-benefit)

or call **0300 200 3100**

## Child Tax Credit

Online:

[www.gov.uk/changes-affect-tax-credits](http://www.gov.uk/changes-affect-tax-credits)

or call **0345 300 3900**

## Universal Credit

Notify your work coach through your online Journal.

	<b>BEST START GRANT</b>	<b>FREE SCHOOL MEALS</b>	<b>SCHOOLCLOTHING GRANT</b>	<b>EMA</b>
<b>WHAT YOU GET</b>	£250 Payment	Saving £431 To £473 Per Year	£120-£150 Payment	£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 Credits	✓	✓✓✓		
Child Tax Credits or Working Tax Credits	✓			
Both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit with a household income of £7500 or less		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	
Child Tax Credit only with an annual income of less than £16,105		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	
Universal Credit	✓			
Universal Credit with a monthly income of not more than £625		✓✓✓		

Universal Credit, with a single parent/ carer working less than 16 hours per week with an annual earned income from employment of less than £16,105			✓✓✓		
Universal Credit, with both parents/ carers working less than 24 hours per week with an annual earned income from employment of less than £16,105			✓✓✓		
Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	
A young person aged 16-19 who attends school for a minimum of 21 guided learning hours per week.					✓
The young person qualifies if your household income is £24,421 or less (£26,884 if you have another child under 16 or under 25 in education).					✓
The young person is willing to participate in an approved learning agreement at school.					✓

## HOW TO GET IT

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

Apply online at [www.aberdeency.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

Apply online at the school grants section: [www.aberdeency.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant](http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant)

Apply online at [www.aberdeency.gov.uk/educationmaintenanceallowance](http://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/educationmaintenanceallowance)

# CHILD DISABILITY/CARER BENEFITS

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.

## CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT

Child Disability Payment (CDP) provides support for the extra costs that a child with a disability might have.

- You can apply for Child Disability Payment for a child under 16 with mental or physical disabilities.
- You can also apply for Child Disability Payment if the child's disability has not yet been diagnosed. In such cases, you can tell Social Security Scotland about any symptoms they have and how they're affected.

The CDP rate is between £23.70 per week and £152.15 a week and depends on the level of help your child needs.



## CARERS ALLOWANCE

You may be eligible for Carers Allowance if you, the person you care for and the type of care you provide meets certain criteria.

[www.gov.uk/carers-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance)

You could get £67.60 a week if you:

- Care for someone at least 35 hours a week
- Get certain benefits
- Earn less than £128 per week

## CARERS ALLOWANCE SUPPLEMENT

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date.

## PAYMENTS

It will be paid by Social Security Scotland every six months. Each six monthly payment will be £231.40. Payments will be updated annually with inflation.

Social Security Scotland will announce the payment months at the beginning of each year. This information will be available on [mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement](http://mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement)

## 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.

## FINANCIAL INCLUSION TEAM

01224 522709

Moneyadvice@aberdeencity.gov.uk

**[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/benefits-and-advice/get-benefits-and-money-advice](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/benefits-and-advice/get-benefits-and-money-advice)**

You can also try out our online benefit calculator. Please note this calculator is not suitable for those who are 16/17-year-old and living with parents, in hospital, residential care, prison, living abroad or full-time education. Please contact us directly for a benefit check.

**<https://aberdeencity.entitledto.co.uk/home/start>**



# NOTES