



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.

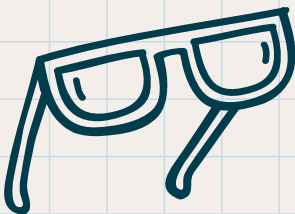
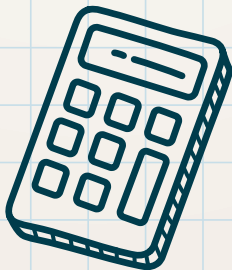
WHO

You can claim this payment if you are responsible for a school age child (see 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/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 approx. £431 per year.

WHEN

From August, all school children in Primary 1 to 4 are entitled to universal free school meal regardless of the household's financial situation. This will be rolled out to Primary 5 children by January 2022.

If a child is in P1 to P4 and parents meet the eligibility criteria below, the parent should apply for Free School Meals in order to receive vouchers during holiday periods or periods of home learning and access to the Scottish Government Scottish Child Payment Bridging Payments.



WHO

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

- Income Support
- 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.aberdecency.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 for primary school pupils and £150 for secondary school pupils. For pupils of statutory school age, the grant is paid to parents; 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

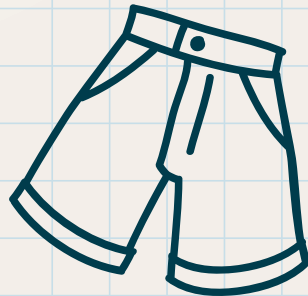
You can only apply for children attending school or about to enter Primary 1. If you are an eligible student who receives an Education Maintenance Allowance you can apply for a school clothing grant for yourself.

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

You can apply for a school clothing grant online. Before you apply online, you will need to set up an account. This is so you can track the progress of your application.

Apply online:

www.aberdencity.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 approx. £470 per year.

WHEN

From S1 onward you must apply for Free School Meals.



WHO

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SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT

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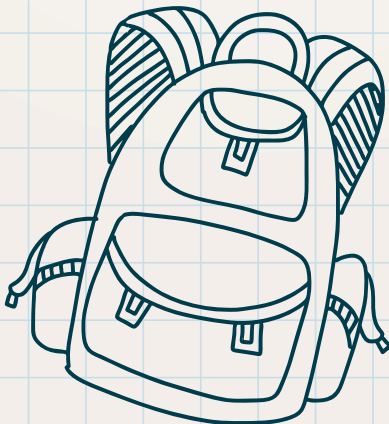
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STAYING ON AT SCHOOL

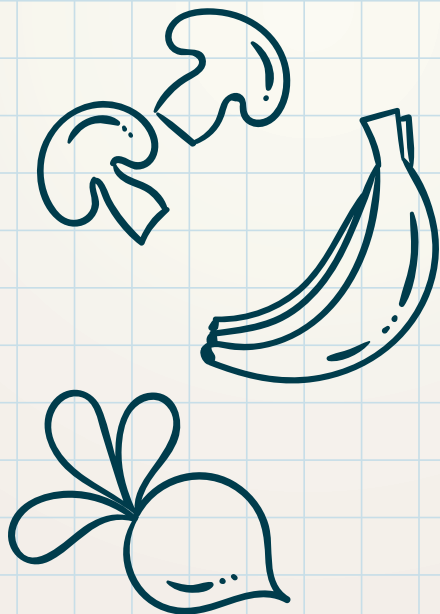
FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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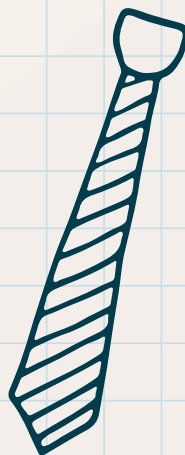
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EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

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 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 payments may not be backdated.

Students become eligible for an EMA in August if they turn 16 between 1 March and 30 September and in January if they turn 16 between 1 October and end of February.

WHO

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

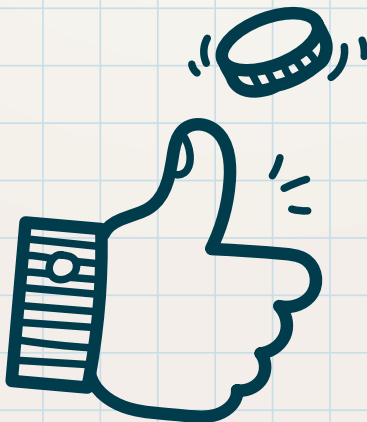
- Have been born between 1 March 2002 and 28 February 2006
- Be in full-time non-advanced education (up to SVQ level 3).

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

You can apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance online. Before you apply online, you will need to set up an account. This is so you can track the progress of your application.

Apply online:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/educationmaintenanceallowance



YOUNG CARERS GRANT

WHAT

The Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £300 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:

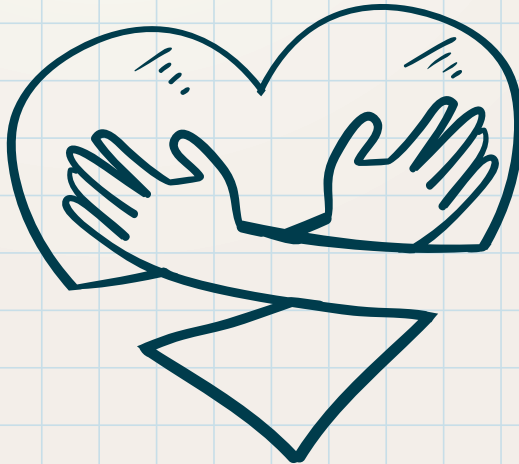
- Be 16, 17 or 18 years old
- Have been caring for 1,2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours per week for at least the last 3 months.

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



STATE BENEFITS/ALLOWANCES

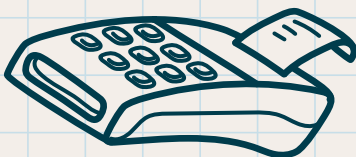
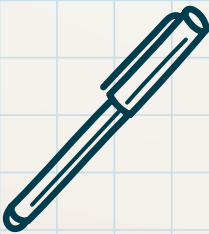
WHAT

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 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.

Child Benefit

Online:
www.gov.uk/report-changes-child-benefit
or call **0300 200 3100**

Child Tax Credit

Online:
www.gov.uk/changes-affect-tax-credits
or call **0345 300 3900**

Universal Credit

Notify your work coach through your online Journal

	BEST START GRANT	FREE SCHOOL MEALS	SCHOOLCLOTHING GRANT	EMA
WHAT YOU GET	£250 Payment	Saving £431 To £473 Per Year	£120-£150 Payment	£30 Per Week
WHEN YOU CAN GET IT				
PRIMARY SCHOOL	✓	✓	✓	
SECONDARY SCHOOL		✓	✓	
STAYING ON		✓	✓	✓
QUALIFYING CRITERIA				
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 or call 0800 182 2222 to apply by phone or request a form	Apply online at www.aberdecnity.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals	Apply online at the school grants section: www.aberdecnity.gov.uk/schoolclothinggrant	Apply online at www.aberdeencnity.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. (Until 22 Nov 2021)

CHILD DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who:

- is under 16
- has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability.

The DLA rate is between £23.70 and £152.15 a week and depends on the level of help your child needs.
From 22 Nov 2021



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

You could get £67.60 a week if you:

- care for someone at least 35 hours a week
- they get certain benefits.
- You 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. Carer's Allowance Supplement is paid 2 times a year.

2021 PAYMENTS

The first payment was on 16 June. It was £231.40. You'll have got it if you were getting Carer's Allowance on 12 April 2021.

The second payment is in December and will be £462.80. You'll get this if you get Carer's Allowance on 11 October 2021. The reason it's double the amount of the last payment is in recognition of the pressures unpaid carers face because of the pandemic.

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

(QR code for printed versions?)

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

