

Parsons Green Primary School Edinburgh



Dream – Believe - Achieve

A BRIEF GUIDE TO EXTRA FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE FOR OUR FAMILIES & CARERS

Many families with children in our school are entitled to some extra financial support. If you are struggling on a low income, you may be entitled to this extra help, even if you haven't claimed anything before. This guide is designed to give you some pointers to where you can get this help, who qualifies for it and where you can apply. The document contains embedded / underlined links which will take you straight to the site and any application process or help you in what you have to do.

Thank you to CPAG, The Child Poverty Action Group (Scotland) and St Catherine's School for sharing information and best practice.

[UPDATED VERSION Aug22](#)



www.parsonsgreenprimaryschool.co.uk

@PGPrimary



FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN EDINBURGH SCHOOLS

The current cost of a paid for 2 course school lunch in an Edinburgh Primary School is £2.25 per day per child. This means an annual payment of around £439 per year per child.

Currently, in Scotland, all children in P1 – P5 automatically qualify for a free school meal so you don't need to apply. When your child enters P6, you must apply if you feel you qualify.

A successful application for free school meals in Edinburgh also qualifies you for a clothing grant too. If you currently receive:

[UNIVERSAL CREDIT](#) – Where your take home pay is less than £610 per month.

[CHILD TAX CREDIT](#) - - With an income of less than £16385 per year.

[WORKING TAX CREDIT](#) – With an income of less than £7330 per year.

[SUPPORT FROM PART VI – IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM ACT 1999](#)

[INCOME SUPPORT](#)

[INCOME BASED JOB SEEKER'S ALLOWANCE](#)

[INCOME RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE](#)

[HOUSING BENEFIT](#)

[PENSION CREDIT](#)

You can apply from June every year. Use the link above or call 0131 200 2000 or email school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk

Free school meals/clothing grants: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants>

FOOD BANK INFO

Our nearest Food Bank is run from the Wilson Memorial Church, 127 Moira Terrace, Portobello Road, Edinburgh, EH7 6UB on Tuesdays 10am -1pm. Please contact the school if you need a referral. This link has info about how to get help or give help:

<https://wilsonmemorial.org.uk/helping-others/basics-bank-food-bank/>

The Trussell Trust run other Food Banks in the NE of the City, please contact the school if you need a voucher/referral:

<https://edinburghne.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/foodbank-vouchers/>

THE EDINBURGH POLICE FUND FOR CHILDREN

This fund provides grants for clothing and footwear to children in Edinburgh who are in need of assistance, up to £50 per child in a calendar year. A family who is resident in Edinburgh and meet the criteria, receive a grant or voucher from the fund to use against clothing or footwear.

Applications can be made by asking the school who can make the application on your behalf. The grant can also be applied for through Social Work, support worker, health visitor or community nurses.

Ask in school if you feel you will meet the criteria for a grant / voucher.

EDINBURGH SCHOOL BANK FOR UNIFORMS

The Edinburgh School Uniform Bank distribute bespoke packs of new school uniform to hundreds of Edinburgh families each year, as well as supplying nearly-new uniform to schools and community groups. Click on the link above for more information or you can email info.esub@gmail.com

PARSY PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

The Parent Council support a pre-loved uniform rail which can be accessed by all families. All good quality, clean uniform can be donated to the school including sweatshirts, PE kit, jackets/waterproofs and wellies that your child has grown out of.

Please remove your child's name before donating!

Items may be found on rails in the school entrance. Please help yourself.

BEST START GRANT

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is £267.65 to help with the costs of starting school. Once received, no receipts or proof of spend are required.

If you have or are responsible for a child born between 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2018, you can claim from 1st June 2022 to 28th February 2023. You are entitled to apply even before your child starts school.

You can claim if you or your partner are entitled to:

[UNIVERSAL CREDIT](#) – You must have been getting UC in the monthly assessment period in which you apply, or the one before that.

[CHILD TAX CREDIT](#) OR [WORKING TAX CREDIT](#)

[INCOME SUPPORT](#)

[INCOME BASED JOB SEEKER'S ALLOWANCE](#)

[INCOME RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE](#)

[HOUSING BENEFIT](#)

[PENSION CREDIT](#)

You can also still apply if you are under 18 or you are 18 or 19 and a dependent on someone else's claim because you are still at college. If you have recently become responsible for a child, like a kinship carer, you may also qualify for a payment. Click on any of the links above to apply or call 0800 182 2222.

If you have a child aged between 2 and 3 ½, you may also qualify for the [BEST START GRANT EARLY LEARNING PAYMENT](#).

If you are at least 24 weeks pregnant or within 6 months of giving birth, you may also qualify for a [BEST START GRANT PREGNANCY AND BABY PAYMENT](#).

Family and Household Support Service

Based at North-East Neighbourhood Centre, the Family and Household Support Service can support applications and advice on a range of services including housing, financial, benefits etc. Please see the leaflet for information:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/26423/leaflet-for-residents>

CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT

This benefit is for children and young people aged between three months and 18 years who have lived with a disability for at least three months and who can expect to continue to have this disability for at least six months.

Qualifying children aged three months or over will be entitled to a payment for their care. Children over three years old can also get a payment to help with their mobility needs.

Qualifying for this may also entitle you to [The Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People](#). This a payment of £200 for children and young people up to the age of 18. To get this payment, you must meet two criteria on at least one day in the third full week of September (called the "qualifying week"). On that day you must:

- ✓ Get the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance for children. (Currently £89.15 per week)
- ✓ Be resident in Scotland

You can click on the links above or call the DWP free on 08001214600.

THE SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT

The brand new Scottish Child Payment are open, with first payments in February 2021. The SCP gives eligible families on low incomes an extra £20 per week per child, payable every 4 weeks (equivalent to £1040 per year). It's being rolled out in stages, firstly to families with children aged under 6.

You can claim if you have a child and receive:

[UNIVERSAL CREDIT](#)

[PENSION CREDIT](#)

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/asset-storage/production/downloads/Best-Start-Grant-and-Scottish-Child-Payment-combined-flyer.pdf>

People will be able to apply online at www.mygov.scot/benefits/ or through the Freephone helpline at 0800 182 2222. The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. A paper application will also be available and can be requested via our helpline or downloaded direct from our website.

Click on the link to find out more and apply.

Maximise!

Maximise! can help with: Income maximisation, Employability support, Family support, Money advice, Welfare rights, Housing advice. You can contact Maximise via: **CHAI - Email:** chai@chaiedinburgh.org.uk **Tel:** 0131 442 2100
www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk

or

Children 1st: Children 1st, 83 Whitehouse Loan, **Tel:** 0131 446 2300
www.children1st.org.uk

The Advice Shop

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/benefits-grants/advice-shop>

We provide

- help with welfare rights including income maximisation through welfare benefits, tax credits and grants
- debt advice to resolve personal debt including credit cards, bank loans, rent arrears, personal loans, store cards, catalogues and mortgage arrears
- help for people affected by cancer through information, advice and advocacy to access entitlements arising as a result of a cancer diagnosis and the extra costs of cancer.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Social Care Direct Edinburgh – During office hours, you can call 0131 200 2327 to report any concerns you have about the care and welfare of any child or young person in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Out of Hours Emergency Social Work number is 0800 731 6969 which is available out of normal office hours.

[Warmer Homes Scotland](#) - you could get free central heating, insulation, home renewables and more - all are included in the Scottish Government funded scheme. Find out if you're eligible by calling Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 or go online at

[Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund](#) - Please see information and a link to an online application form. (grants towards essential items such as clothing, baby items, bedding, household items, food and living costs -grants do not normally exceed £250 and usually around £100).

[John Watson Trust](#) - Awards grants for educational purposes to children and young people under the age of 21 who have a physical or learning disability, or who are socially disadvantaged.

Scottish Police Benevolent Fund

Parent Club Scotland – for lots of advice and links to information.

One Parent Families Scotland is an organisation that offers a free helpline number and provides general advice to lone parents on issues concerning them.

Citizens Advice Scotland - The Citizens Advice Bureaux in Scotland offer free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on a wide range of subjects.

KinshipScot – A great website full of links and supports for families in Edinburgh.

Kindred – This is a charitable organisation run by parents to support children and young people with complex needs. Its website provides great ideas and links to information and financial grants which families meeting the criteria can apply for.

Parenting Across Scotland – Another great website for helplines across Scotland, access to parenting information and benefits advice as well as a great 'Top 10 Tips' section for parents and carers.

Children 1st Parentline – This website gives valuable information about means tested benefits and counselling advice to all parents and carers in Scotland.

Partners in Advocacy – provide independent advocacy for individuals living with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, physical disabilities. They also provide independent advocacy to children and young people who are living with mental health issues, additional support needs and learning disabilities.

CPAG – The Children's Poverty Action Group Scotland – The CPAG site is a one stop shop for welfare rights and benefit advice for families with children and young people. It offers national guides and guidance to many of the benefits mentioned in this guide.

ClothesBank+ - This is part of The Edinburgh City Mission which provides valuable help in lots of areas for vulnerable families. Like the Police Clothing Scheme, the school can make a referral on behalf of a family who require good quality day to day clothing for both children and adults.

CHAI - The Community Help and Advice Initiative support people living across Edinburgh and the Lothians to relieve poverty, provide social welfare assistance, practical help and to provide information, advice and support. Their website is easy to navigate to all the services they provide.

Benefits and grants - mygov.scot – link to overview on Scottish Government website of lots of benefits and grants.

SUPPORT for FAMILIES

[Support for families – The City of Edinburgh Council](#) – overview website with links to lots of information for parents and carers

[Home - All \(joininedinburgh.org\)](#) – book parenting classes and active school clubs

HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORTS & GUIDES

Link to the Parsons Green Health & Wellbeing website page for lots of guides and supports:

<https://www.parsonsgreenprimaryschool.co.uk/health-wellbeing/>