

Back to School Support for Families

As the new school year begins, make sure your family is getting all the support available.

Universal Credit (UC)

- You may qualify for **Universal Credit** if your income is low enough. How much you will get depends on your income. You can also get help with **childcare costs** if you work.
- Contact us for a benefit check or go to <https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk/>
- Apply to UC online www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk/start or call 0800 328 5644



The Scottish Child Payment

- You can qualify for **the Scottish Child Payment**, a payment of £28.20 per week, per child, if you claim UC or some other means-tested benefit.
- Claim online here: www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/how-to-apply or phone 0800 182 2222.

Free School Meals (FSM) & School Clothing Grants

- Apply every year through the **City of Edinburgh Council**: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants
- You may qualify if you receive means-tested benefits such as **Universal Credit**.
- Even if you're working while claiming Universal Credit, you are eligible if your earnings are below £995 per month. Full criteria: www.mygov.scot/school-meals
- Note that if your child is in **P1 to P5**, you qualify for free school meals without needing to apply. Likewise, if your child is in **P6–P7**, you should now get free school meals automatically as long as your child gets the Scottish Child Payment (SCP). But do remember to apply for school clothing grants separately!
- If you don't qualify through the Council, help may still be available from charities such as the Edinburgh School Uniform Bank and Kids Love Clothes. Ask us for advice!

Home Discount – £150 off Winter Bills

- One-off **£150 discount** on your electricity bill. **Apply through their energy supplier**. Check your supplier's eligibility criteria: www.changeworks.org.uk/energy-advice/financial-support/warm-home-discount/

Need Help Applying? We're here to support you!

Ask your School or Early Year Centre for an appointment or phone us on **0131 442 2100**.

More Support for Families



Best Start Grant – School Age Payment

- If your child was born **between 1 March 2021 and 29 February 2022**, you may be entitled to a **£331.95 one-off** school age **payment** to help with uniforms, school supplies, and other costs.
- It is paid automatically if you already get the **Scottish Child Payment**, but some families need to apply (e.g. if you receive Housing Benefit but not Child Payment, or if you're under 18).
- **Deadline: 28 February 2027** (applies even if your child's school start is deferred).
- Apply online www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/how-to-apply Or call **0800 182 2222**.

Best Start Foods

- Provides a **prepaid card** to buy healthy food for children.
- You qualify if you get **Universal Credit** or some other means-tested benefit **regardless of earnings**.
- Eligibility has been expanded to **families with no access to public funds** (due to immigration status) if you live in Scotland; you care for a child under 3; and if your household income is under 1,792.71/month (single) or £2,121.02/month (couple).
- Apply: **0800 182 2222** or online www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods

When Your Child Turns 16

You can still receive **Child Benefit**, or **Universal Credit** if your child continues in non-advanced education (below HNC level). But you must report their course details every August until they turn 20. Failure to update may stop your payments.

Child Benefit: 0300 200 3100 and **Universal Credit:** www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit or 0800 328 5644



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