



Pupil Equity and Financial Support for Families

In Lenzie Academy, we are wholly committed to supporting our pupils and the wider school community. This is particularly important right now given the cost of living crisis. As a result of this, many families are experiencing financial hardship for the first time, and financial circumstances remain tough for many.

Within the school, we have a range of resource items available to pupils. These items include school uniforms, revision materials and hygiene products. Pupils should complete the Glow form using the QR code outside the upper and lower offices to request any items that are needed, or speak to their Guidance Teacher. Additionally, we are now registered as a referral agency with East Dunbartonshire Foodbanks. If you are in need of food support, please contact your child's Guidance Teacher and we can arrange for you to be referred to your local food bank.

The links below provide information on financial supports available to families that may be of value.

The East Dunbartonshire Income Maximisation Service is available to all East Dunbartonshire residents and provides free confidential advice if you are experiencing any financial worries or hardships - <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/services-adults-and-older-people/income-maximisation-service>

School Clothing Grant and Free School Meals (FSM) –

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

You will find additional support information to help with your application on our school website - <http://www.lenzieacademy.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/school-info/uniform/>

Pupils eligible for a School Clothing Grant will receive a payment of £150 to help with the cost of uniform.

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals will be given a daily allowance (enough to purchase one full meal at lunchtime).

Applications for the 2024-25 school year should open during July.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) –

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/education-maintenance-allowance>

EMA is a weekly payment of £30 to help support a student in education beyond the school leaving age of 16. This is awarded based on a household income of less than £26,884 and is only paid based on the pupil having 100% attendance.

Applications for the 2024-25 school year open in July.

Scottish Child Payment –

<https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment>

Scottish Child Payment is a weekly payment of £26.70 made to families on low incomes in Scotland who have children under 16 years of age. This can help towards the cost of supporting your family to be spent however you see fit.

Scottish Welfare Fund –

<https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-welfare-fund>

The Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland who are on low incomes with living costs. Support can be provided in the format of a crisis grant, self-isolation support grant or community care grant. You must be 16 or over and on a low income, or getting certain benefits, to apply for these grants.

Child Disability Payment –

<https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>

Child Disability Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have. You can also apply for Child Disability Payment if the disabled child does not have a diagnosis. This payment will be paid until the child is 18. The amount of the payment can vary dependent on circumstances. The rate of payment made is dependent on the level of need of the child.

Child Winter Heating Assistance –

<https://www.mygov.scot/child-winter-heating-assistance>

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced by the Scottish Government. It is a payment to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over the winter if they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. It is paid once a year, usually from the end of November onwards. The payment for winter 2023-24 was £235.70.

Cold Weather Payment –

<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>

Cold Weather Payments will be made when the temperature in your area is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days. You must be in receipt of certain benefits to be eligible for a cold weather payment. You'll receive £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November 2024 and 31 March 2025.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) –

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/benefits/discretionary-housing-payment>

DHP can help if your rent isn't covered by your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. DHP awards reflect the individual circumstances of each claimant and the amount of funds available at the time of the application.

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) –

<https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance>

ESA is a benefit for adults whose ability to work is limited through ill health or disability. You can apply if you're employed, self-employed or unemployed. ESA awards vary dependent on whether the claimant is able to get back into work in the future or not.

Carer's Allowance –

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

Carer's Allowance is a benefit paid to people who spend at least 35 hours per week caring for someone – the person you care for must be in receipt of certain benefits for you to qualify for entitlement. Carer's Allowance is paid at a rate of £81.90 a week.

Carer's Allowance Supplement –

<https://www.mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement>

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who are in receipt of Carer's Allowance at certain times of the year. The next round of payment is £288.60 in December 2024 – you'll be entitled to this payment if you are in receipt of Carer's Allowance on 7 October 2024.

Young Carer Grant –

<https://www.mygov.scot/young-carer-grant>

Young Carer Grant is available to young people aged 16-18 who have been caring for 1, 2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours a week for at least the last 3 months. Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £383.75.

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods –

<https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods>

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the cost of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments: pregnancy and baby payment, early learning payment and school age payment. Best Start Food is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit.

Independent Living Fund Scotland Transition –

<https://www.mygov.scot/independent-living-fund>

Young people aged 15-25 with a disability or impairment can apply to the Transition Fund for money to help them take part in a new activity or learn a new skill. The most amount of money you can apply for is £4,000.

Job Start Payment – <https://www.mygov.scot/job-startpayment>

Job Star Payments help with the costs of starting a new job. Young people or care leavers who have been out of work and/or in receipt of certain benefits. If your application is successful you'll get £314.45, or a higher payment of £503.10 if you're the main carer of any children.

Cost of Living Support (East Dunbartonshire Council) –

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/cost-living/cost-living-support>

EDC have recently announced a £1.5million package of support, designed to help those most in need. Within this support package, there is a Winter Support Payment of £200, energy vouchers for council tenants, additional funding for the local Foodbank and Citizen's Advice Bureau and more. Please visit the link above for more information about supports that may be relevant for you and for application forms.

Free Bus Travel Pass –

<https://getyournec.scot/nec/pages/content/young-persons-free-bus-travel>

The Scottish Government now provide a free bus travel pass to all young people in Scotland under the age of 22. This pass allows young people to travel on all public transport buses in Scotland free of charge. For those under the age of 16, parents/guardians must apply for this pass, those over the age of 16 can apply themselves