

# St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School Edinburgh

ST. CATHERINES



*Learn - Inspire - Grow*



## A BRIEF GUIDE TO EXTRA FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE FOR OUR FAMILIES & CARERS (This Edition - Updated May 2024)

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 information and advice on where you can get this help, who qualifies for it and where / how you can apply. The document contains [embedded / underlined](#) links which will take you straight to the relevant site or any application process to help you in what you have to do. Please do pass this guide on to anyone you think can make use of it.

Thank you to CPAG, The Child Poverty Action Group (Scotland) and Moira Coupar and her team in The City of Edinburgh's Welfare Reform Team, who support us in putting this guide together.



[OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)  
[St Catherine's R.C. Primary School](#)  
[\(wordpress.com\)](#)

[OUR TWITTER](#)  
[@stcathsedin](#)



## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN EDINBURGH SCHOOLS**

The current cost of a paid for a meal deal school lunch in an Edinburgh Primary School is £2.35 per day per child in Primary and £2.80 in Secondary School.

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 free milk, a clothing grant (£125 for a Primary School child and £157.00 for a child at Secondary School) and a school meal holiday payment. The holiday payment will be £2.50 per day (excluding weekends) for each child on free meals. If you currently receive:

[UNIVERSAL CREDIT](#)

[CHILD TAX CREDIT](#)

[WORKING TAX CREDIT](#)

[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 of the year your child is due to enter P6. You can apply by calling 0131 200 2000 or by [clicking on this link](#).

## **SOUTH EDINBURGH FOOD BANK**

The South Edinburgh Foodbank based locally in Blythswood Care, 47 Southhouse Broadway, it provides food and assistance for families in need in the South of Edinburgh.

Vouchers for access to the foodbank can be obtained from St. Catherine's in complete confidence. These vouchers can be redeemed for 3 sets of food for a family in a 6 month period. For more information, please click on the link above or you call 0131 664 9353 or email [edinburghfoodbank@blythswood.org](mailto:edinburghfoodbank@blythswood.org)

## **THE EDINBURGH POLICE FUND FOR CHILDREN**

This fund provides grants for clothing and footwear to children in Edinburgh who are in need of assistance. 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. St. Catherine's accepts these vouchers for any school wear.

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](mailto:info.esub@gmail.com)

## **ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT**

[Adult Disability Payment](#) is extra money to help you if you have a disability or long-term health condition that affects your everyday life. Adult Disability Payment is made up of 2 parts:

- ✓ Daily living
- ✓ Mobility

You may qualify for one or both parts.

The amount you get depends on how your condition affects your ability to do everyday activities and get around. It does not matter if you're working or not. Your income and savings are not taken into account.

## **BEST START GRANT AND FUNDS**

[Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods](#) are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. They're part of the 5 family payments you may be able to get from Social Security Scotland, along with [Scottish Child Payment](#). Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- ✓ Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- ✓ Early Learning Payment
- ✓ School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit.

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.

## **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 is currently a payment of £235.70 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 £101.75 per week with a high-rate mobility component of £71.00 per week. This is paid four weekly on a Tuesday.)
- ✓ Be resident in Scotland.

You can click [here](#) or on the title link above or you can call the DWP free on 08001214600.

## **THE SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT**

The [Scottish Child Payment](#) gives eligible families on low incomes an extra £26.70 per week per child which you get every four weeks.

You can claim if you have a child and receive:

[UNIVERSAL CREDIT](#)

[PENSION CREDIT](#)

Click [here](#) or on the title link above to find out more and apply.

## COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION

- ✓ If you are currently paying full Council Tax payments, you can make a claim for a Council Tax reduction if you:
- ✓ have savings of less than £16,000
- ✓ are responsible for paying the Council Tax bill.
- ✓ have a low income from benefits or work, including self-employment.

You may still get a Council Tax reduction if your savings are more than £16,000 and you or your partner get the Guarantee Credit part of Pension Credit.

You can apply for a reduction at the same time as you claim for Housing Benefit.

You can start your claim with the City of Edinburgh by using this online link – [Start Claim](#)

## DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT (DHP)

If your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit Housing Costs doesn't cover all of your rent and you are having difficulty paying the shortfall, you may be able to get a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) to help. DHP can help, for example if you:

- ✓ Are seeking more affordable accommodation and require assistance with a deposit, rent in advance or removal costs.
- ✓ Are affected by the introduction of the benefit cap and are seeking employment.
- ✓ Have been affected by previous Housing Benefit changes such as the extension of the Local Housing Allowance shared room rate to under 35s.
- ✓ Have higher living costs because you are sick or disabled.

Even if you are not sure you qualify, you can still make a claim to find out by using this online link – [Start Claim](#)

## SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND(S)

To apply for a grant from the Scottish Welfare Fund, you must be 16 or older and on a low income, or receiving benefits such as Universal Credit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, or Pension Credit. There are different grants you can apply for depending on your circumstances. **You do not need to pay these grants back.** You can apply for a:

[Crisis Grant](#) – to help with an unexpected emergency like a fire or flood, losing your money or your job.

[Community Care Grant](#) – to help you or someone you care for to start to live, or to carry on living, a settled life in the community.

You need to apply through your own local council. The link to apply for Edinburgh is here. [Edinburgh Welfare Fund Application](#)

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

Education Maintenance Allowance or EMA gives financial support to eligible 16 to 19-year-olds, who have reached school leaving age but who want to continue in their learning. There are three main qualifying elements to EMA.

Residency - There's different arrangements in place for different immigration statuses. Your own local council and place of education will be able to let you know if can get EMA with your current residency status in your area.

Household Income - To qualify, households with one dependent child must be earning £24,421 per year or less, and households with more than one dependent child must be earning £26,884 or less, before tax. Dependent children are those up to the age of 16 and those between the age of 16 and 25 in full time further or higher education.

Education - As well as the above, you can only qualify for EMA if you're any one of these:

- ✓ Attending school full time.
- ✓ Home Educated or in Flexi-Schooling
- ✓ On a full or part-time non-advanced course in a college or education centre.

You can only get EMA if you're on a non-advanced course (those studying up to and including Advanced Highers at school, college or through home education). If you think you qualify for EMA, you need to complete the following every academic year:

- ✓ An EMA application form
- ✓ A learning agreement.

EMA is a weekly payment of £30, paid every 2 weeks in arrears. You can apply direct to your school or college or using this link to Edinburgh Council. – [Apply for EMA](#)

## WINTER HEATING PAYMENT

You can get a winter heating payment if you live in Scotland and you are on qualifying benefits on any day in the 'qualifying week', which is the week starting on the first Monday in November. To be entitled to a winter heating payment, you have to be on one of the following benefits during the qualifying week:

[UNIVERSAL CREDIT](#)

[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](#)

If you get pension credit, there are no further conditions to meet. If you are on one of the other benefits you must also satisfy some [other conditions](#) which relate to ill-health, disability or having a young child in your household. A winter heating payment is an annual payment of £55.05. You do not have to make a claim for a winter heating payment. If you are eligible, it should be paid by Social Security Scotland automatically, starting from February 2023. If you think you are entitled and you have not received a payment, you should contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

## 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.

**The City of Edinburgh main website** also has a very comprehensive guide and advice section if you are worried about money, debt or your personal circumstances have changed dramatically. It also has an easy-to-use online benefits calculator that you can use to see what you may be entitled to. You can go directly to this section of the website by [clicking here](#).

[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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

[Edinburgh Carer Assistance Fund](#) - To support carers, VOCAL has received funding from the Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh to establish a Carer Assistance Fund. Each carer household can apply for a one-off £250 - £500 grant.

#### [Care & Repair Edinburgh](#)

Care & Repair offer a range of services designed to make it easier for older and disabled Edinburgh residents to live independently. Using a set of trusted and vetted tradespeople, they can help with maintenance tasks, small repairs, and electrical work. The full range of their services offered can be found by using this link or by calling them directly on 0131 337 1111. [Care & Repair Edinburgh](#)



**Anything you think is missing from this advice that others would like to know?**

**We will update this guide every school term, get in touch with us and let us know what you would like us to include. [admin@st-catherines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-catherines.edin.sch.uk) or call us directly on 0131 664 4257 is the best way to do this.**

**You can use the same contact information to also book into to one of our free and confidential welfare and benefits sessions run, in our school, on the last Friday of every month between 9.00am – 10.30am. Remember - You don't have to be a parent or carer our school to book in, it's open to anyone. The dates for this school year ahead are noted below:**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025**