



*Enabling all pupils to achieve successful outcomes
regardless of ability or background*

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) who supported us in putting this guide together.



admin@whec.edin.sch.uk

0131 442 2201



MAXIMISE

Maximise! is a partnership between CHAI and Children 1st supported by The City of Edinburgh Council, the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership and the Capital City Partnership. Together, they want to ensure that school pupils can achieve their educational potential. The Maximise Team provide an all-round service to pupils' families to help improve relationships, increase confidence, support well-being and increase community links as well as providing advice to maximise your income, reduce debt, resolve housing issues and gain employment.

Maximise are based in the High School. Please contact your pupils Pupil Support Leader who can pass on your details to the team or contact Stella directly on the email address below to arrange an appointment.

Stella Farrell - Stella.Farrell@chaiedinburgh.org.uk - Advice Worker.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN EDINBURGH SCHOOLS

The current cost of a paid for 2 course school lunch in an Edinburgh Secondary School is £2.70 per day per child. This means an annual payment of around £540 per year per child. You must apply for Free School Meals 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. Use the link above or call 0131 200 2000 or email school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk .

THE COMPANY SHOP

Based on Dumbryden Road, The Company Show is owered by surplus products donated by our amazing partners. The Community Store offers food and household products from well-known brands at deeply discounted prices. This project aims to help feed families while making sure that perfectly good products don't go to waste. You do need to be a member to access the shop. Please follow the link -

<https://www.companyshopgroup.co.uk/Profile/CommunityMember>

If you need any help or support to sign up - please speak with your child's Pupil Support Leader.

FOOD BANKS IN THE LOCAL AREA

Holy Trinity Church-

1-2 Hailesland Pl, Edinburgh EH14 2SL - [0131 442 3304](tel:01314423304)

St Cuthbert's Colinton -

6 Westgarth Ave, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0BD - [0131 441 7580](tel:01314417580)

Edinburgh Southwest Food Bank -

Salvation Army, 431 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2RB - [0131 346 2875](tel:01313462875)

The Wester Hailes Community Food shop (Tues 10am-2pm) -

Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre, 30 Harvesters Way, EH14 3JF - [0131 453 9100](tel:01314539100)

Calders Community Flat

Dunsyre House North, 33 Calder Crescent, EH11 4JH - [0131 453 9245](tel:01314539245)

Oxgangs Community Church

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, EH13 9EU, [07766 493504](tel:07766493504)

Score Scotland

Whale Learning Centre, 30 Westburn Grove, EH14 2341 - 0131 442 2341

Space and Broomhouse Hub

79-89 Broomhouse Cres, Edinburgh EH11 3RH - [0131 455 7731](tel:01314557731)

The Dove Centre

1 Clovenstone Park, Edinburgh EH14 3BG - [0131 453 4656](tel:01314534656)

The Health Agency

Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre, 30 Harvesters Way, EH14 3JF - [0131 453 9100](tel:01314539100)

WHALE Arts Agency

Whale Learning Centre, 30 Westburn Grove, EH14 2341 - 0131 442 2341

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. As a school, we accept 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

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.

INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND

ILF Scotland is a public body, governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by and accountable to Scottish Ministers.

ILF Scotland operates as a discretionary fund providing financial awards to over 3,000 disabled people in Scotland and Northern Ireland to help them live independently.

In 2017, ILF Scotland opened the [Transition Fund](#) for 16-25-year olds. The ILF Scotland Transition Fund provides money, for up to one year, to support young people living with disabilities (as defined in the Equality Act 2010) to improve their lives. This includes autism, learning difficulty, physical disability, mental health (e.g. anxiety or depression) or hearing or visual impairments.

To check if your child is eligible, follow this link - <https://ilf.scot/transition-fund/>

YOUNG CARERS GRANT

Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £305.10 for young carers in Scotland. To be able to get Young Carer Grant, you must be 16, 17 or 18 years old. How you spend the Young Carer Grant is up to you. You could use it for things like new clothes, driving lessons or a holiday. You can get Young Carer Grant once a year, up until you turn 19. You'll need to fill in a new form or call each year you want to apply.

Follow the link to find out if you are eligible to apply -

https://applications.socialsecurity.gov.scot/young-carer-grant#eligibility_speedbump

PEOPLE KNOW HOW

People Know How is a Scottish charity founded in 2013 on the principle that people know how to identify their needs and the solutions that will help them fulfil their potential. People often don't realise that they know how, and that's where we come in - unlocking ideas for a better future, today. Their main offices are in Edinburgh and they work primarily in Edinburgh and East Lothian, with all parts of the community including children, young people, vulnerable adults and the elderly. Below are some of the things they can help with -

- Positive Transitions Service, projects supporting children, young people and families
- Reconnect, supporting adults to increase health and wellbeing
- Connect Four, fostering partnership and cross-sector collaboration
- Computer Delivery, helping people stay connected

Please see the website for more information

<https://peopleknowhow.org/about-us/>

CITIZENS RIGHTS PROJECT

<https://citizensrightsproject.org/>

The link above is to an organisation that is supporting families with their EU settled status applications. The website is available in many different EU languages as you can see below. If you need support to apply, please contact your child's Pupil Support Leader

SCHOOL CONTACTS

S1 & S2 Pupils

- Miss Meikle (PSL) Ellie.1.meikle@whec.edin.sch.uk
- Miss Walker (DHT) Janet.walker@whec.edin.sch.uk

S3 & S4 Pupils

- Mr Ellis (PSL) Gavin.ellis@whec.edin.sch.uk
- Miss Dancer (DHT) Claire.dancer@whec.edin.sch.uk

S5 & S6 Pupils

- Ms Ramsay (PSL) Clare.ramsay@whec.edin.sch.uk
- Mrs Heritage (DHT) Donna.heritage@whec.edin.sch.uk

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.

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.

[Woman’s Aid](#) – Woman’s Aid offer support and advice for those impacted by Domestic Abuse and work to meet the needs of the women and children effected.

[NSPCC](#) – If you have concerns and would like to report child abuse or neglect, or are worried about a child’s safety, NSPCC can offer advice and support.