



**South Ayrshire Council  
Information and Advice Hub**  
**Advice and Support for families**

**Financial support available to parents, carers  
and pupils and how to apply for them**

## Best Start Grant School Age Payment

School Age Payment is a payment of £294.70 per child. It helps with the costs of preparing for school when your child is old enough to start primary school. You can receive the payment for multiple children, as long as each child is the correct age at the time you are applying.

Applying for the School Age Payment depends on your child's date of birth:

Your child's date of birth	When you can apply
Between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019	Between 1 June 2023 and 29 February 2024
Between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 Between 1 June 2024 and 28 February 2025	Between 1 June 2024 and 28 February 2025

### You cannot apply out with these dates

You qualify for the School Age Payment if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

**Apply online here or call  
0800 182 2222 to request  
a form to apply by post**



# Free School Meals

## Primary

Primary schools provide a three-week menu cycle. All primary schools have a pre-order system in place, and children will receive a two-course lunch and a drink of water or milk. The current cost of a primary school meal is £2.35 per day. If you qualify for free school meals, you can save approx £440 per year.

All school children in Primary 1 to 5 are entitled to a free school meal. However, we request that parents/carers who meet the eligibility criteria apply online as this will be the method, we will use to identify eligibility for future support payments.



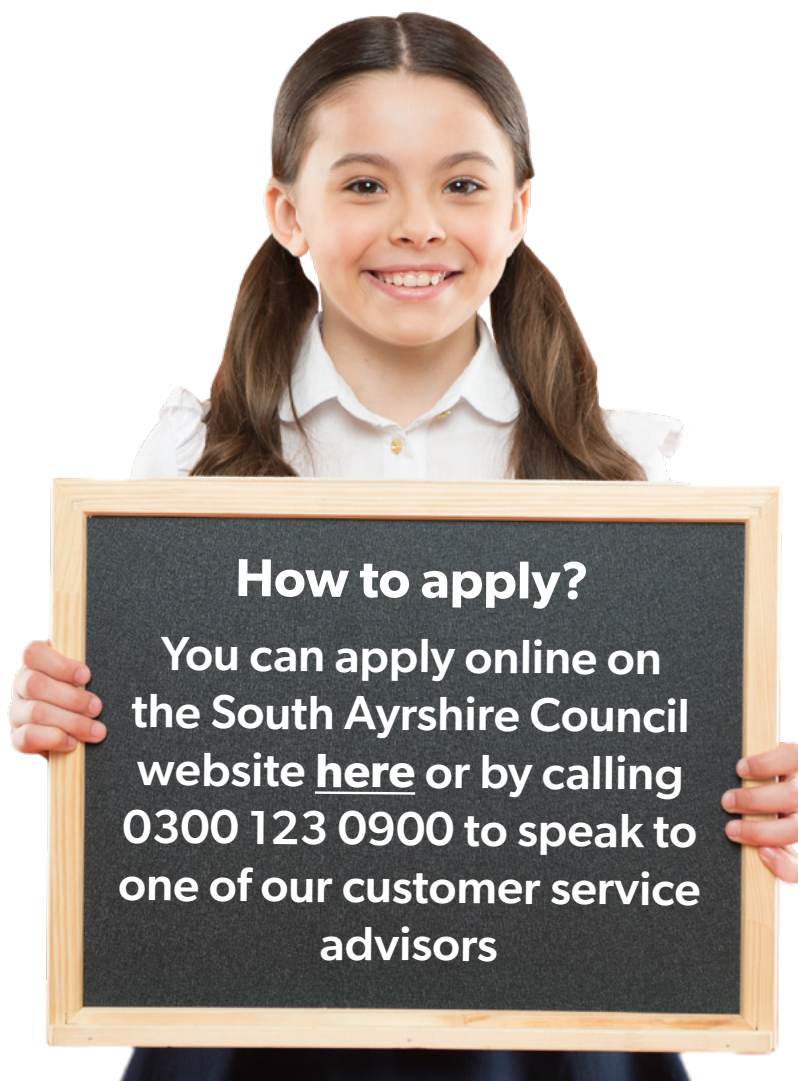
## Secondary

Secondary schools provide a two-week menu cycle. All secondary schools have a pre-order system in place, and children will receive a two-course lunch or a meal deal. The current cost of a secondary school meal is £2.45 per day. If you qualify for free school meals, you can save approx £460 per year.

You must apply from S1 onwards for Free School Meals. We request that parents/carers who meet the eligibility criteria apply online as this will be the method we will use to identify eligibility for future support payments.

You qualify for free school meals for school session 2022/23 if your child is in Primary 1-5 or you receive any of the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit where household income is £17,005 or less
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit where the household income is £7,920 or less
- Universal Credit where earned income is £660 or less per month
- Income- based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Support
- Any Income-related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999



### How to apply?

You can apply online on the South Ayrshire Council website [here](#) or by calling 0300 123 0900 to speak to one of our customer service advisors

# School Clothing Grant

## Primary

The School Clothing Grant is an annual payment of £120 towards the cost of essential school clothing, one application can be made per child for each school year.




## Secondary

The School Clothing Grant is an annual payment of £150 towards the cost of essential school clothing, one application can be made per child for each school year.

If your child has passed their official school leaving date, applications will only be processed once they have returned to school in August

Young people aged 16-18 years old who meet the eligibility criteria in their own right can also claim clothing grant and free school meals.



You qualify for school clothing grants for school session 2022/23 if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Council Tax Reduction
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit where household income is £17,005 or less
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit where household income is £17,005 or less
- Universal Credit where earned income is £1,417.08 or less per month
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Support
- Any Income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

## How to apply?

You can apply online on the South Ayrshire Council website [here](#) or by calling 0300 123 0900 to speak to one of our customer service advisors

## NEC – Young Person’s Free Bus Travel

All Scottish residents aged 5-21 are eligible for a Young Persons’ Free Bus Travel card.

Children under 5 years old already travel for free on buses and do not need a card.

Children under 16 years old will need their parent/guardian to apply on their behalf and provide approval for free bus travel to be enabled on their child’s card.



**You can find out more information and fill out an online application [here](#)**

## Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a payment of £25 per week that you can receive for every child under 16 that you look after. It is paid every 4 weeks by Social Security Scotland.

**You qualify for Scottish Child Payment if you receive any of the following benefits:**

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

**or if you alone receive one of these benefits:**

- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance



### How to apply?

Apply online [here](#) or call 0800 182 2222 to apply over the telephone or request a form for a postal application

## Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have. You can apply for Child Disability Payment for a disabled child under 16. This applies to both mental and physical disabilities.

You can apply for Child Disability Payment if the disabled child does not have a diagnosis. In such cases, you can tell Social Security Scotland about:

- how they're affected
- any symptoms they may have

Social Security Scotland will pay Child Disability Payment until the child is 18. In some cases, they may continue making payments after the child is 18.

Any adult with parental responsibilities and rights or a guardian can apply for Child Disability Payment on the child's behalf if they are under 16 and live in Scotland.

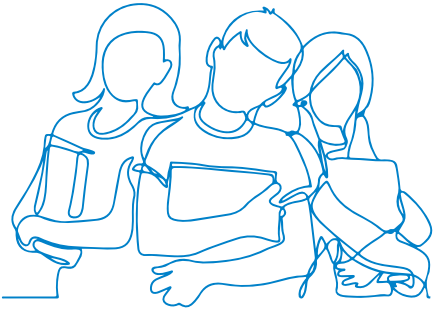
You cannot receive Disability Living Allowance for children and Child Disability Payment at the same time.



### How to apply?

Apply online [here](#) or call 0800 182 2222 to request a form to apply by post. Once you have received the form from the Social Security Scotland, the Information and Advice Hub can help you complete it

## Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)



Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is an allowance of £30 per week.

It is paid every 2 weeks in arrears during term time into the young person's bank account.

EMA is available to 16-19-year-olds attending full time school education. You may also be eligible for an EMA if you are on an Activity Agreement placement.

You should apply as soon as you become eligible as payments cannot be backdated.

**EMA eligibility is assessed on:**

- gross taxable household income

### How to apply?

You can apply from June 2023 online on the South Ayrshire Council website [here](#) or by calling 01292 616248 or 01292 612237

## Young Carer Grant

The Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £359.65 for young carers in Scotland. You can apply for the Young Carer Grant once a year up until you turn 19.

If all of these apply, you can qualify for the Young Carer Grant:

- You live in Scotland
- You are 16, 17 or 18 years old
- *You have been caring for 1, 2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours a week for at least the last 3 months. (If you care for more than one person, you can combine the hours of the people you care for to average 16 hours a week.)*
- The person or people you care for receive one of the following benefits:
  - the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment
  - the middle or highest care rate of Disability Living Allowance including Child Disability Living Allowance
  - the middle or highest care rate of Child Disability Payment
  - the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment
  - Attendance Allowance
  - Armed Forces Independent Payment
  - Constant Attendance Allowance
- You're not being paid to care for someone you will use in your application as part of your job
- You're not helping care for the people you apply for as a volunteer, for example as part of a care group or charity
- You're not already getting Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions, or Northern Ireland's Carer's Allowance

### How to apply?

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To connect with us via our online services, scan the QR code below.



[south-ayrshire.gov.uk](https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

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**AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Deas  
Making a Difference Every Day