

School clothing grants and free school meals

Academic Year 2018/19 commencing August 2018

It is the Council's intention to increase the uptake of clothing grants and free school meals within South Lanarkshire. To do this the Council will use the information that it holds on Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction records to automatically award free school meals (P4 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from South Lanarkshire Council there is no need for you to complete an online application.

If you are not in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction, please see the qualifying criteria below and make an online application.

Free school meals

All school children in primaries 1 - 3 receive free school meals.

If you have a child in primary 4 -7 or in secondary who attends a South Lanarkshire school they are entitled to free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit (and your earned income is less than £610 in the assessment period immediately before your application for free school meals)
- Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Child Tax Credit (with a gross annual income less than £16,105*)
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (with a gross annual income less than £6,420*)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

(*as assessed by HM Revenues and Customs on your Tax Credit Award notice TC602).

If you are receiving Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit we will need to see a copy of your Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602) or your Universal Credit Statement or Journal. You can attach a scan or photograph of the notice with your online application form, or post a copy to Finance and Corporate Resources, Education Benefits Team, PO Box 3591, Glasgow G73 9ED.

Please note: copies of notices will not be returned to you. Please do not send in original documents, as these will not be returned to you.

Free school meals could save you approximately £314 per academic year. Entitlement can be checked at schools from the beginning of term.

Please submit your application for the 2018/19 academic year from 1 June 2018. Any forms submitted before this date may not be processed.

School clothing grants

You will be entitled to a clothing grant to buy school uniform if you have a child who attends a school in South Lanarkshire and you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit: if your net annual income is less than £14,300 (as assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions)
- Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support allowance (income related)
- Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (where your gross annual income is less than £16,105 as assessed by the Inland Revenue)

You will receive a grant for each school age child in the family. However, children returning for 5th or 6th year will have their awards paid from August, once the school has confirmed that they are attending. Clothing grants are not available to nursery school children.

Please submit your application for the 2018/19 academic year from 1 June 2018. Any forms submitted before this date may not be processed.

[Apply for a clothing grant/free school meals](#)

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Clothing grants will be paid from the beginning of July 2018. Applications received after April 2019 will be considered for the new academic year beginning in August 2019.

Your clothing grant will be paid by cheque and posted to your home address. You will be able to cash your cheque free of charge at any of the following banks within South Lanarkshire:

- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Bank of Scotland
- Clydesdale Bank

You don't need to have a bank account to cash your cheque and you won't be charged. For your security all banks will need to see two official forms of identification such as a recent Tax Credit award letter or driver's licence. You'll also be asked to sign the back of the cheque in front of the bank teller. Please do not separate the cheque from the remittance advice as both need to be intact for the bank to cash the cheque.