



## School Age Payment

### Spread the Word about Best Start School Age Payment

#### Intranet Article

You can add this news story onto your organisation's intranet to inform your staff about the School Age Payment.

### Giving children the best start

The Scottish Government launched its Best Start Grant School Age Payment on Monday 3 June.

Delivered by Social Security Scotland, the £250 School Age Payment is made to low income families around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 to help with the costs of a child starting school.

Applications are now open for parents who would normally have a child starting school this August. Families can apply after the child has started school right up to 29 February 2020. You do not need to take up a school place to get this payment.

Eligible parents should apply if their child was born between 1 March 2014 and 28 Feb 2015.

This also applies to parents who have deferred entry to next year – they should still apply in the 3 June 2019 to 29 February 2020 window. If they wait until next year it will be too late and they will miss out on your payment.

The School Payment is part of the Best Start Grant - a package of three payments that gives extra money to parents and carers on certain benefits or tax credits during the early years of a child's life.

Other payments include the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, and the Early Learning Payment.

To be eligible for the School Age Payment, or any other Best Start Grant Payment, the family must live in Scotland and be in receipt of a qualifying benefit from the list below:

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

If you are under 18 you are automatically eligible and don't have to be on a qualifying benefit.

You also don't need to be on a qualifying benefit if you are 18 or 19, in full time education or training and dependent on someone else like a parent or carer who is claiming child benefit, child tax credit, pension credit or universal credit for you.

If the person you are working with wants more information on Best Start Grant you can advise them to visit [mygov.scot/schoolpayment](https://mygov.scot/schoolpayment) or call Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

If you are a welfare advisor and you want to get in touch, please contact the Social Security Scotland by email at [localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot)