

Help with School Expenses Information Sheet – 2010

- **Free School Lunches**
- **Secondary School Clothing Allowance**
- **Learner Support Fund - Post 16 education at school**

Online Application Form

You can now apply online for Free School Lunches and / or Secondary School Clothing Allowance.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schoolexpenses

On the right hand side of the page under the heading Links, click on:
Education Welfare Benefits Online Application Form

Cambridgeshire Local Authority can help you with certain school expenses.

This leaflet gives details of the help you can get.

April 2010

FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES

Who can get them? all children who:
are at school; and
were under 19 at the start of the academic year (1st September 2009) and are claiming or have parents who are claiming:

- ◆ Income support or
- ◆ Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or
- ◆ Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (this benefit was introduced from 27 October 2008) or
- ◆ Child Tax Credit, but who are **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190 or
- ◆ Support under part VI of the Immigration & asylum Act 1999
- ◆ Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Note: From 1 May 2009 where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to Free School Lunches.

What do you get? A free two course lunch each school day, or if there is a cafeteria service, food up to the value of £2.10 (This is the rate for 2009-2010).

For how long? We will write to you letting you know when the lunches will start and end.

How do I apply? To receive free school lunches YOU will need to apply 3 weeks before the date you want the free lunches to begin. Please keep a note of the end date of your existing claim so you remember to reapply. If your circumstances change and you stop receiving any of the benefits shown above it is important that you let us know immediately. We do not backdate entitlement to free school lunches.

Our commitment to you We shall process your claim within 3 working days of receiving a valid application form and advise your child's school of his/her entitlement to free school lunches. We will then send out a letter to you

Note, the following schools administer their own free school lunches, please apply direct to the school if your child is attending one of these schools:

Primary:- Crosshall Junior, Park Lane Primary, St. Helen's Primary
Secondary:- Bassingbourn V.C., Comberton V.C., Gamlingay V.C.,
Thomas Clarkson, Sawtry V.C., Sawston V.C., Soham V.C.,
St. Peter's Huntingdon

SECONDARY SCHOOL CLOTHING

- Who can get help?** Children who:
are of compulsory school age and attending secondary school; and are claiming or have parents who are claiming:
- ◆ Income support or
 - ◆ Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or
 - ◆ Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (this benefit was introduced from 27 October 2008) or
 - ◆ Hold an NHS Tax Credit Exemption certificate (issued to families receiving CTC and WTC whose annual income is £16,190 or less) or
 - ◆ Support under part VI of the Immigration & asylum Act 1999.
 - ◆ Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- How much?** The amount and the payment of the allowance is reviewed annually. For the financial year 2009/2010 the allowance is £40 for year 7 pupils and £20 for year 8, 9, 10 and 11 pupils.
- Payment will be made direct into your bank account.
- What clothes?** The allowance is used to help buy clothes that are essential for school.
- Our commitment to you** We shall make a payment into your bank account within 10 working days of receiving a valid application form. However, this may take longer during July, August and September, in which case we shall let you know when to expect your payment.

LEARNER SUPPORT FUND

Who is eligible?

Students who:
are aged 16-19; and attending school sixth form; in
Cambridgeshire Local Authority area and are claiming
or have parents who are claiming:

- ◆ Income support or
- ◆ Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or
- ◆ Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (this benefit was introduced from 27 October 2008) or
- ◆ Hold an NHS Tax Credit Exemption certificate(issued to families receiving CTC and WTC whose annual income is £16,190 or less) or
- ◆ Support under part VI of the Immigration & asylum Act 1999.
- ◆ Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

How much?

This amount is reviewed on a yearly basis. Payment will be made each term subject to the student's satisfactory attendance on their course. We shall write to you letting you know whether you qualify and advise you of the amount payable.

What is the allowance for?

The money is for educational expenses, such as books and equipment, travel costs, interview costs to University, childcare costs etc.

Our commitment to you

We shall advise you whether you have qualified for the allowance before the start of term.

Please note: CTC is Child Tax Credit
WTC is Working Tax Credit

HOW TO APPLY?

You can apply for any of these benefits by filling out the Education Welfare Benefits Application form EWB 2010 enclosed with this leaflet.

Application forms are available from Education Welfare Benefits Service,
Tel: 01480 372307, the School secretary at your son/daughters school; or
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schoolexpenses

Please keep this Information Sheet for your records.