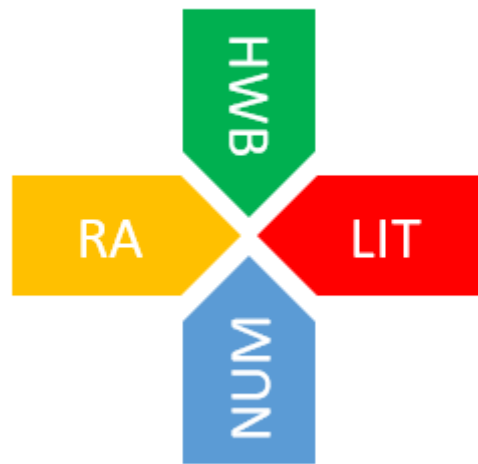


Promoting Equity In Bishopbriggs Academy



2023-24

As a society, we are currently in the middle of a cost of living crisis. As a result, many families maybe experiencing financial hardship/circumstances for the first time. At Bishopbriggs Academy, we are committed to supporting all of our young people and families.

The aim of this booklet is to provide information regarding the support currently available in school as well as those supports that are available out of school in the local community and nationally.

If you would like further support or information on any of the supports found in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Guidance Teacher or Year head at any time. We hope that you find this booklet useful. If you require any further information regarding equity, or wish to request any items, please do not hesitate to contact Mr.Rushworth, Acting DHT [Equity] – jrushworth@bishopbriggs.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Support available within Bishopbriggs Academy

Breakfast Club

Every Thursday morning, pupils can come to school for 7.30 and take part in a range of sport/fitness activities before heading to the FCS department for 8.00 a.m. for some breakfast. Pupils can chose from cereal, toast, fruit and juice. Breakfast Club provides an active, welcoming start to Thursday morning as well as a safe, friendly space to start the day.

Take what you need trolleys

Located on each floor of the school building [Guidance base, CORE base and Nurture base], our take what you need trolleys are stocked with a range of toiletries [shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorants, facial wipes, sanitary products], a selection of stationary [pens, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, rulers, highlighters] Various sizes of tights and underwear as well as small snack bars. If any pupil requires any of these items, they simply take what they need.

The idea behind the trolleys is to ensure all of our young people have everything they need to have a positive school day and learning experience.

S1 House Bags

Upon starting Bishopbriggs Academy, all new S1 pupils are issued with a drawstring bag in their house colour which includes stationary, a water bottle and key ring in house colour. This allows all our S1 pupils to participate and achieve in all lessons.

Uniform upcycling service

At Bishopbriggs Academy we offer an upcycling initiative for school uniform which is both sustainable and environmentally friendly.

We have a wide range of pre loved school uniform which can be exchanged for uniform that is now too small and that you would be willing to exchange for a larger size. The range of pre loved school uniform includes:

Blazers

Shirts

Jumpers

Winter coats and jackets

School shoes

We have the items listed above in a variety of sizes. If you would like to exchange any uniform and are interested in getting a larger size, then please contact the school office and we can get this sorted. We will then contact you and arrange for the uniform to be collected at a suitable time for you once it is all ready to collect.

Bishy Food bags

As a school we aim to support all our families as best we can. We do offer small food bags to any family who may need a little support to help them during difficult times. The bag contains a range of items such as pasta, pasta sauce, bread, biscuits, tins and some frozen items. Whilst we wish we could offer more, the bags do help some families with a couple of meals each week. The bags are made up to order and a suitable time is arranged with families for the bag to be collected from school at a time that doesn't create any stigma or stress. For more information, please contact the school office or email directly at jrushworth@bishopbriggs.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

If you would like to contact the school about any of the support ideas mentioned, please scan the QR code and complete the forms link, we will then be in touch.



Supports available from East Dunbartonshire Council/ Scottish Government

Applications for Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants

You can submit an application at any time throughout the academic year if your circumstances change. You must submit a new application each academic session and the application form can be found on the link below

School Clothing Grants and Free School Meals (£240 per eligible primary school child and £300 per eligible secondary school child for the academic year 2023/24)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Contact no: 0300 123 4510

Email: sharedservices.education@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Free Bus Travel

Free bus travel is available to all of our young people and all that is required is the completion of an application form. Young people aged under 16 will need a parent/guardian to apply for the pass online or sign the paper application before it is handed in. Those young people over 16 can apply themselves. In school, pupils can speak to their Guidance Teacher or Adele/Karlie [Youth Development Workers] who are located in the Guidance base.

The online application can be found on:

<https://getyournec.scot/nec/pages/content/young-persons-free-bus-travel>

East Dunbartonshire Council Foodbanks

If you are in need of any food support, please contact your child's Guidance teacher in the first instance in order to start the referral process. Alternatively the information below will help you.

Food banks in East Dunbartonshire (requires a foodbank voucher which can be obtained from Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors and some local charities).

East Dunbartonshire Foodbank

Opening hours: Check with Foodbank directly.

Contact no: 07425 134131

Email: info@eastdunbartonshire.foodbank.org.uk info@eastdunbartonshire.foodbank.org.uk

Website: <https://eastdunbartonshire.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/visiting-a-foodbank/>

Education Maintenance Allowance [EMA]

EMA is a weekly payment of £30 to help support a young person in education beyond the leaving age of 16. Applications can be made at any time throughout the session

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/education-maintenance-allowance>

Scottish child payment

For families receiving Universal Credit, Scottish Child payment is available. Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £25 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful.

<https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment>

Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have. Child Disability Payment replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children and young people living in Scotland.

You can apply for Child Disability Payment for a disabled child under 16. The disability can be mental or physical. You can also 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.

<https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>

Carer's Allowance

You could get £76.75 a week if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get certain benefits. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for. For each week you get Carer's Allowance you'll automatically get National Insurance credits. You may also be able to apply for:

- support from your local council
- a Council Tax Reduction
- Universal Credit if you're on a low income or out of work
- Pension Credit if you're over working age
- grants and bursaries to help pay for courses and training

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

Carers Allowance Supplement

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer Support Payment or Carer's Allowance on a particular date. Carer's Allowance Supplement is paid 2 times a year. The next payment is £270.50 from 8 December 2023 – you'll get this payment if you're getting Carer's Allowance on 9 October 2023.

<https://www.mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement>

Young Carer Grant

Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £359.65 for young carers in Scotland. To be able to get Young Carer Grant, you must be 16, 17 or 18 years old. You must also 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.

<https://www.mygov.scot/young-carer-grant>

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit.

The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are 2 separate payments. You apply for both Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods using the same form. This is to make sure you can get all the payments you can without having to fill in more than one form. You'll get separate letters to let you know whether you'll get each payment.

<https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods>

Energy Bills support

Home Heating Support Fund (financial support to those at risk of self-rationing energy usage due to financial hardship)

Email: support@homeheatingadvice.scot

Website: <https://homeheatingadvice.scot/home-individual/>

Home Energy Scotland (free, impartial advice on saving energy, keeping warm at home and funding available to pay for home improvements to increase energy efficiency – eligibility criteria applies)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm

Saturday 9am to 5pm

Contact no: 0808 808 2282

Email: Via contact form on Website below

Website: <https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/contact-advice-support-funding/>

Child Winter Heating Assistance

Child Winter Heating Payment used to be called Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Payment is a benefit from the Scottish Government. It was first paid in 2020. It's a payment to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over winter. It's paid once a year. The payment for winter 2023-2024 is £235.70.

Payments for winter 2023-2024 will begin in November 2023.

<https://www.mygov.scot/child-winter-heating-payment>

Winter Heating Payment

Winter Heating Payment helps people on low income benefits who might have extra heating needs. It's automatically paid once a year. The payment for winter 2023 to 2024 is £55.05. Winter Heating Payment has replaced [Cold Weather Payment](#) in Scotland. Unlike the Cold Weather Payment, Winter Heating Payment does not depend on how cold the temperature gets.

Payments for winter 2023 to 2024 will begin from the middle of December. Social Security Scotland expects to pay the majority of eligible people by the end of January 2024. You'll receive a letter from Social Security Scotland before they make the payment. You can identify the payment by the reference code on your bank statement. The code will include 'WHP'. This stands for Winter Heating Payment.

<https://www.mygov.scot/winter-heating-payment>

East Dunbartonshire Income Maximisation Service

Available to all East Dunbartonshire residents, providing free confidential advice and if you are experiencing financial hardship.

Free regulated Money and Debt Advice Services – East Dunbartonshire

Citizens Advice Scotland East Dunbartonshire – Main Office (Income maximization, Money and Debt Advice, Housing/Energy bills/Benefits advice)

Opening hours:

Monday

10.00am - 3.00pm and 5.00pm -7.00pm

Tuesday

10.00am - 3.00pm and 5.00pm -7.00pm

Wednesday

10.00am - 3.00pm and 5.00pm -7.00pm

Thursday

10.00am - 3.00pm and 5.00pm -7.00pm

Friday

10.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday

10.00am - 12 noon

Contact no: 0141 775 3220

Email: bureau@eastdunbartoncab.casonline.org.uk

Website: <https://edcab.org/>

Citizens Advice Scotland Bishopbriggs Outreach Service - (Income maximization, Money and Debt Advice, Housing/Utilities/Benefits advice)Opening hours:

Tuesday

10.00am - 2.00pm

Wednesday

10.00am - 2.00pm

Thursday

10.00am - 2.00pm

Contact no – 0141 563 0220

Cost of Living Support [East Dunbartonshire]

As part of the Cost-of-Living Support Programme for 2023/2024, the Council agreed to introduce a Household Support Payment. This one-off payment will be available to 1,000 households not on means tested benefits from October 2023.

Applicants must fit the following criteria:

- You must be responsible for paying Council Tax for a property within East Dunbartonshire, which you are occupying as your home.
- You must NOT be in receipt of a means-tested benefit such as Universal Credit, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Related), Income Support, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Pension Credit Guarantee Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction

To be successful, you must also be one of the following:

- Single and income less than £17,500 per year and have less than £800 in savings.
- Part of a couple with no dependents living with you, your joint income is less than £25,000 a year and your joint savings are less than £1,200.
- Part of a couple with children living with you, your income is less than £30,000 and your joint savings are less than £1,200.
- Lone parent with children living with you, your income is less than £30,000 and you have less than £800 in savings.

Please note, applicants will be asked to send documentary evidence outlining income and savings as part of the process so please have this ready. Once a form is received, it will be checked, and further information may be requested. If the claim is successful, a one-off payment of £150 will be sent directly to the applicant's bank account.

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/cost-living/household-support-payment#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20the%20Cost,tested%20benefits%20from%20October%202023.>

Cost of Living Support from East Dunbartonshire Council

Household Support Payment (first come first served basis, £150, apply via their website / online form)

Opening hours :

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Contact no : 0300 123 4510

Email : customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/cost-living/household-support-payment#>

Local Housing Allowance from East Dunbartonshire Council (if you are renting from a private landlord and on a low income - must meet eligibility criteria).

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Contact no: 0300 123 4510

Email: benefits@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/benefits/local-housing-allowance>

Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland on low incomes with their living costs. Various grants are available to help support including crisis grants, self isolation grants and community care grants. You must be 16 or over and on a low income to be eligible.

<https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-welfare-fund>

Nationwide Free, Regulated Money and Debt Advice Services

StepChange (Please let StepChange know upfront that you are contacting from Scotland as debt solutions here are different to the rest of the UK so you will need to be connected to the Scottish team).

Opening hours :

Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm

Saturday 9am to 2 pm

Contact no : 0800 138 1111

Email : Via website below

Website : www.stepchange.org/contact-us.aspx

National Debtline

Opening hours :

Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm

Saturday 9:30am to 1pm

Contact no : 0808 808 4000

Email: Webchat via website below

Website: <https://nationaldebtline.org/>

Debt and money advice for those with mental health issues

Change Mental Health (Initial advice on money worries and help to deal with Emergencies)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday – 10am to 4pm

Contact no: 0808 8010 515

Email : advice@changemh.org

Website: <https://changemh.org/need-support/>

Independent Living Fund Scotland Transition

If you're aged 15 to 25 with a disability or impairment you can apply to the Transition Fund for money to help you take part in a new activity or learn a skill.

You can apply to the Transition Fund if you:

- are between 15 and 25 years old
- have lived in Scotland for the last 6 months
- have an impairment or disability
- have less than £27,250 in your personal savings

If you apply for the grant at age 15 you will not get the money until you turn 16

The most amount of money you can apply to the Transition Fund for is £4,000.

<https://www.mygov.scot/independent-living-fund>

Job Start Payment

You can apply for Job Start Payment to help you with the costs of starting a new job.

You can apply if you're a young person or care leaver who's both:

- been out of work
- on certain benefits

You can get a one-off payment of either:

- £294.70
- £471.50 – if you're the main carer of any children

<https://www.mygov.scot/job-start-payment>

If you have any other suggestions about how we can better support equity within Bishopbriggs Academy, please contact Mr.Rushworth [Acting Depute Equity] on 0141 9552351 or jrushworth@bishopbriggs.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

Equity at Bishopbriggs Academy

