

Is your child eligible for Education Welfare Benefits?

Do you receive any of the following qualifying benefits

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 (provided you're not receiving Working Tax Credit, unless on a four week 'run-on' period where WTC is due to end)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.

If you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed above and have children aged two – nineteen you may also be eligible to claim, or access, the following Education Welfare Benefits for your child.

Free Early Learning and Childcare for Two Year Olds

The entitlement begins from the school term following the child's second birthday.

Children born in the period:	Become eligible for funding at the start of term beginning or following:	School Term
1 January - 31 March	1 st April	Summer
1 April - 31 August	1 st September	Autumn
1 September - 31 December	1 st January	Spring

Up to 570 hours free early learning and childcare at a registered early years provider.

Once eligible, entitlement is for the whole academic year and is not rechecked so your child can continue to access their place, even though your circumstances may change.

The hours can be spread evenly over the year and can be taken as a maximum of 15 hours a week over up 38 weeks in a year, or stretched with fewer hours in a week over more weeks in a year.

Since September 2014 this scheme has been available to claimants in receipt of Working Tax Credit provided annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190.

For more information and to apply go to <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/free2s> , or Telephone 01223 703200 for more advice and support

Free Early Learning and Childcare for Three and Four Year Olds

Universal entitlement - All three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education up to a maximum of 570 hours per year. Check the table above for the eligible dates of birth.

Extended entitlement - Three and four year olds of working parents may be able to access an **additional 570 hours** free early education over a year if they meet certain criteria. For more information and to check eligibility, go to the website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk;

If you are eligible, you will be directed to the HM Revenue & Customs webpage www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/ to apply and will be issued with an 11 digit eligibility code.

Early Years Pupil Premium (Three and Four Year Olds)

Additional funding paid directly to the registered early years provider attended by your child to be used by the provider to support your child's learning and development.

For more information and to apply go to <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/eyp>, or Telephone 01223 703200 for more advice and support

Free School Meals (FSM)

Available to school-age children and to Post-16 students at a school with a sixth form, or FE college. Saving you up to £400 per year for each child.

For more information and to apply go to <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>, or Telephone 01223 703200 for more advice and support

Pupil Premium (school-age children)

Available when a child has been identified as eligible for FSM. No separate application. Additional funding paid directly to your child's school to be used to support their learning. Can be used for a range of intervention and support programmes including: music fees; specialist support; equipment and help towards the cost of educational school trips.

Home to School transport (11 – 16 year olds) & (16 – 19 year olds)

Some secondary school children may qualify for help with transport costs under 'Extended Secondary Rights for Low Income Families'.

Some young people aged 16 -19 who are studying at school or college (not university) in England may qualify for help with transport costs.

For more information and to apply go to – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/transport or www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/post16edtransport, or Telephone 0345 045 5208 for more advice and support

16 – 19 Bursary Scheme (16 – 19 year olds)

Funding to help with education-related costs for young people aged 16 to 19 who are studying at school or college (not university) in England, or who are on a training course, including unpaid work experience.

Each school and college will have their own scheme and qualifying criteria, but most, if not all, include these benefits as a starting point for eligibility