

# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## Accessing Training within Dumfries & Galloway

Detailed below are projects which will help you to access support and training throughout our Region.

## Universal Support Project

Once you have contacted us, you will be assigned an Employability Key Worker for the area that you live in.

They will help you to set goals and will support you through 1-2-1's including writing a CV, searching for jobs, completing application forms, arranging work experience, improving interview skills, confidence building and much more.

**Eligibility criteria applies.**

**Contact us to see if we can support you!**

**Email: [DGEmployability@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:DGEmployability@dumgal.gov.uk)**

**Phone: 01387 260060**

## Project Search

Our service works in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway College to offer Project Search which is a one year internship for people, aged 16+ with disabilities or additional support needs whose goal is to gain employment.

The project allows interns to engage with three different workplaces on rotation to explore a variety of job and career paths.

The goal by the end is that individuals have achieved the specific transferable work skills necessary for progression into paid employment.

**Have a look on our website for further information and success stories!**

**<https://www.dgtap.co.uk/project-search>**

## DG Workplace Skills Award

This was recognised with a national award by SURF in the youth employability section and is offered to prepare people for work placements or employment. The Award focuses and identifies the key skills for work and the expectations of an employer, for example; communication and interpersonal skills, teamworking and specific ICT skills. We offer this at different levels to suit the individual in line with the SQA.

## DG YG

This is a commitment that every 16-24 year old in Dumfries & Galloway will be offered a place in appropriate learning or training if they are not already in a job, Modern Apprenticeship or in education or returning to education. We also have Youth Guarantee agreements. Employability Key Workers support young people aged 16-19 to engage in a programme of tailored learning and activities based on interests and future skills.

**Contact us to see if we can support you**

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**Phone: 01387 260060**

## PESF FB

The Parental Employment Support Fund is in place to help parents on a low income work towards an employment goal. We can support you to learn new skills and undertake training, as well as support to build a CV, job searching, completing applications and preparing for interviews

Eligibility criteria applies. Contact us to see if we can support you

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## Dumfries and Galloway Council - Education Services

Our Education Services Teams within Dumfries and Galloway Council can help with a range of projects which help to reduce the costs of the school day for both parents and children.

### Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided for all pupils in Primary 1, 2 and 3 as well as those families on qualifying benefits.

Free School Meals can lead to a large saving each year, parents of primary school children can potentially save £361 and parents of secondary pupils can potentially save £370. You will also be helping your child's school if you qualify for Free School Meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the numbers of pupils who are registered as entitled to free school meals.

### Qualifying Criteria

Your child will receive free school meals if you are in receipt of the following:

- Income Support
- Job seeker's Allowance (Income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income based)
- Child Tax Credit on its own, with an annual taxable income of less than £16,105 (subject to change)
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of less than £6,900 (subject to change)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £610

**An application form should be completed and you can contact us if you wish to discuss 030 33 33 3000.**

If you need to complete an application form, please see below.

### Apply

- Download an application form [download]
- Download a Change of Circumstances notification form [download]
- Call 030 33 33 3000

### School Clothing Grants

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on a low income.

Free School Meal and Clothing Grants are to assist with the cost of school meals and school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on a low income.

All pupils in Primary 1-3 are currently eligible for free school meals. Registering for Free School Meals can help your school as some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

The current award for a School Clothing Grant is £134 per child.

You may be eligible for a School Clothing Grant if you have a child who attends a school in Dumfries and Galloway and you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance (Income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income based)
- Child Tax Credit on its own, with an income of less than £16,105 (subject to change)
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £7,330 (subject to change)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £610

If you are not in receipt of any of the above benefits and are experiencing hardship due to exceptional circumstances please complete an application at the link below. This will be considered by the Education Authority on a discretionary basis..

Other financial help you may qualify for financial help with school transport .

### Apply

If you are not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction, you will have to provide up to date information on your financial circumstances to assess your eligibility.

**If you have not applied before please go to the link below to do so online:**

**ApplicationFormFreeSchoolMeals  
ClothingGrants**

## **To report a change in your circumstances please contact:**

**Email: [Educationbenefits@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Educationbenefits@dumgal.gov.uk)**

**Phone on: 030 33 33 3000**

### **Payment**

Clothing grant payments are paid directly to the applicant's bank account. If you do not have a bank account please contact us. Payment's can't be made to Post Office accounts. We won't pay grants to pupils aged 16 (or who turn 16 between 1 March and 30 September) until after the summer holidays. We need the school to confirm attendance.

### **Best Start Grant School Age Payment Now Open for Applications**

The payment provides families in Scotland, who are on a low income to help with the costs of a child starting school. People can apply around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 and if they get certain benefits or tax credits. Applications can be made online at [www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant](http://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant) or by contacting the Freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222. Deadlines do apply. The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm.

### **Free School Transport**

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria.

We use various services to provide school transport:

- school contract buses hired from private companies where travel passes are issued for pupils only
- Dumfries and Galloway council school buses (DGC Buses)
- taxis, private hire cars and minibuses
- local bus services where travel passes (tickets) are issued for children to use for travel to and from the school (please note that grace and favour transport is not available on these services)
- a mileage allowance to drive your child to school in your own car if you live remote from other children and away from an established route

### **Eligibility**

Your child is not entitled to transport if they attend an alternative school by parental choice. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to organise transport to the school.

You can perform an address search if you aren't sure which schools are in your area.

- Find out which school catchment area you are in  
Your child may receive free transport if they are:
  - under 8 years old and live 2 miles away from their catchment school
  - over 8 years old and live 3 miles away from their catchment school
  - Roman Catholic, attending the denominational school for their address and live further than statutory distance from that school

We may consider providing free transport if your child attends their catchment school but wouldn't normally be entitled to free transport and has been recommended transport because of:

health grounds identified by a medical officer (speak to the headteacher)

additional support needs identified by the Supporting Learners Team

### **Apply for transport**

You should apply through the school.

You or the school will be contacted with the transport arrangements if your application is successful .

### **Grace and favour places**

Pupils who are not normally entitled to travel may get a grace and favour place if they live near a school transport route and there is a seat available on a dedicated school service. Complete an application form and return it to the school your child attends:

### **Download an application form [download]**

You must re-apply each school year and this place may have to be withdrawn at any time should spaces be required for eligible pupils or if the maximum capacity or route of a vehicle is changed.

There is also a historic arrangement that secondary pupils in the catchment areas for Dumfries Burgh schools can get assistance with transport if they are entitled to free transport to their catchment school but decide to go to another school in the Burgh. This is limited to the costs which would be incurred if they'd decided to attend their catchment school. Contact the school if you think a pupil may qualify for free school transport on this basis.

## **Breakfast Clubs in Schools & Pupil Equity Funded Projects**

A large number of our Primary and Secondary Schools within our Region offer now offer Breakfast Clubs and Pupil Equity Funded Projects which offer free activities and support which have been specifically developed to ensure that pupils are able to access more support and services to make every day in which they are in school easier and more accessible.

Please contact your Child's School and ask what additional services are available for all pupils to access at this time and full details will be provided to you.