

What is the 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit?
Pension Credit is an income-related benefit for pensioners living in Great Britain. It is made up of two different parts, Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit.

The Guarantee Credit works by topping up weekly income to:

£137.35 if you are single

£209.70 if you have a partner

These amounts may be more for people with disabilities, or people with caring responsibilities or certain housing costs, such as mortgage interest payments.

What is Child Tax Credit?

Parents with a new baby or those responsible for any children under the age of 16 - or under 20 if they're in full-time education or approved training - may be able to claim Child Tax Credit to help with the cost of looking after them.

For more information about any of these benefit schemes, visit www.direct.gov.uk

Some local authorities also offer families on low incomes extra support at their discretion. It is worth exploring whether families at your school would qualify for any of the following;

School uniform allowance

Families who are receiving benefits or who are living on a low income could be entitled to discretionary grants to help with buying school uniforms.

Local authorities that offer these grants set their own criteria for eligibility. Check with your local authority to find out what is available in your area.



Residential visits

Families whose children qualify for free school meals will be entitled to free board and lodging on a residential trip provided:

- it takes place wholly or mainly during school hours
- it takes place outside of school hours but it is a necessary part of the National Curriculum
- it forms part of the syllabus for an examination that the school is preparing the pupil to sit
- it is part of religious education



Free milk

There is no statutory requirement for milk to be provided in schools or nurseries. It is a matter for local authorities and schools to decide. Where milk is provided, it must be free to children eligible for free school meals. For all other parents, schools can choose to participate in the EU School Milk Scheme, which provides a subsidy to reduce the cost of their milk.

Free home to school transport

Local authorities must provide free home to school transport for children if they:

- are between 5 and 16 years old and
- are attending their nearest suitable school and
- live further away from the school than the statutory walking distances (2 miles for pupils under 8, and 3 miles for those aged 8 plus)

Children who are entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit are also entitled to free school transport if they live between 2 and 6 miles from their school or between 2 and 15 miles if they attend a school based on their parents religion or belief. Claims should be made through the local authority.

Free swimming

Some local authorities offer free or reduced-price swimming for children under 16. Check with your local authority to find out what is available in your area.



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