**School uniform grants in Camden – July 2020**

Camden does not give any grants to families to help pay for school uniforms and has not done so for many years. This is highlighted in the starting school admissions booklets.

For many families this can be an expensive time of the year but there are some places and organisations where families can seek help.

The following are some suggestions where they could seek help towards the uniform cost.

If they have a social worker, they may be able to access funding in certain circumstances.

Alternatively, if they have a family worker or another allocated worker from a council service they may also be able to do a charity application for the family but this can take time and there is no guarantee that the money will be available by the start of the school term.

See charity guide to explain what charities could be approached – please note not all charities will accept application directly from the client so it will need to be made on their behalf and this can require financial evidence to be sought as well as stating why they application is being made.

The following charities are worth considering but there are conditions as listed in the guide.

Benevolent Society of St Patrick – if from Irish descent

Family Fund

Glasspool

Lady Gould if you live in Highgate area

Ragamuffins

St Pancras Welfare trust

Recently charities have required the bank details of the recipient so the money is paid directly to them, but they may make it payable to LB Camden in which case it will need to be banked and then the cash collected which in Covid times maybe time consuming.

If the family is on benefit then they can apply for a budgeting loan – this money will be deducted from their future benefit if they are given a loan. <https://www.gov.uk/budgeting-help-benefits>

To get a Budgeting Loan you must have been getting one or more of these benefits for the past 6 months:

* Income Support
* income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Pension Credit

If you moved from Universal Credit to Pension Credit, any time spent, claiming Universal Credit will count towards the 6 months.

You cannot get a Budgeting Loan if:

* you are currently claiming Universal Credit - apply for a [Budgeting Advance](https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/other-financial-support) (and below) instead
* you’re involved in industrial action (for example, a strike, walkout or lockout)
* you owe more than £1,500 in total for Crisis Loans and Budgeting Loans

To get a Budgeting Advance, all of the following must apply:

* you’ve been getting Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Jobseeker’s Allowance or State Pension Credit for 6 months or more, unless you need the money to help you start a new job or stay in work
* you’ve earned less than £2,600 (£3,600 together for couples) in the past 6 months
* you’ve paid off any previous Budgeting Advance loans

**Other sources of help that parents could approach**

Google search for charities and grant making trust, most libraries have a copy of the directory of grant making trusts in their reference section or can advise which library would have one.

Community or faith groups they belong to maybe able to help or may have access to other funding streams.

To their union if they are a member – Unison give a grant to some low paid employees.

Credit unions if they have an account and meet the eligibility criteria – you cannot join and apply for a loan at the same time.

There are also some uniform sell and swap sites listed, and gumtree are all worth searching to see if there is anything available.

Finally, schools may be able to assist or offer to sell at a discount good quality previously used clothes. It is always worth asking, as they may know of other local support.

Information correct July 2020 but is subject to change.