

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We examine the School Day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home Learning.

Uniform

Our current uniform is a blue shirt and tie, a blue poloshirt, black trousers/skirt and a school sweatshirt/black jumper or cardigan. Families can purchase badged uniforms from Scotcrest in Hamilton, should they wish. However, we do not insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts and so similar items may also be purchased in local supermarkets such as Asda, Morrisons, Tesco or Sainsbury's. Next session we intend to update our practice by introducing a 'recycling rail' at the main office. Families may donate any unwanted items, or take things that may be of use to their children.

Travel

The majority of our children walk to school. Transport in the form of taxis is provided for the a few children by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after-school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have lunch time activities, as well as some which take place after school.

Learning

Children at David Livingstone Memorial Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Pens and pencils are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. We also provide craft materials should children require these as part of a home learning activity. We currently do not have a procedure for young people to borrow ICT equipment if they need it for homework (e.g a Notebook), however we are looking to offer homework clubs next session, as well as raise all children's awareness of the facilities on offer at the local library.

Friendships

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to extend our Health and Wellbeing programme to teach young people about poverty-related issues, as well as discuss this as part of Anti-Bullying Week. We have already gathered the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and will continue to involve them in decision-making around this.

School Trips

Currently our trips are planned each year by class teachers. The average cost of trips for pupils is £6. We try to reduce the cost by running class enterprise projects and we will be looking to extend this further next session as part of our work on Financial Education. In addition, we will look to apply for external funding to support the cost of school trips, as well as look to establish an Inclusion Fund in partnership with our Parent Council. We currently do not have a policy for families with more than one child, but will look to establish this. We will also ensure that trips are added to the school diary at the start of the new session so as to avoid families having more than one trip at the same time, as well as remind families that ParentPay can be used as a way to save a small amount of money every week.

Eating at school

Last school year we had 21.0% of pupils who were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we try to reduce this by not issuing tickets. We estimate that approximately 75% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement, although not every day. In order to increase that percentage we have included a school lunch as part of our P1 Induction sessions this year.

Fun Events

At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School we recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We intend to look carefully at attendance and participation in these events in order to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. As with school trips, our Fun Events are planned by class teachers, as well as some by the Parent Council. We now need to ensure that all of these events are put in the diary at the start of session to ensure that they are evenly spaced out over the year. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity, we ensure they can still experience it by requesting a donation and subsidising the children concerned using school funds. We currently fund raise by having a sponsored event at the start of each new session and understand that not all families are able to contribute so we just ask for a donation. The Parent Council are also looking into bag-packing at a local supermarket so that it does not involve families from the school each time.

School Clubs

At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School we have a range of clubs, including multi-sports, football, netball, cross country, choir and cricket. We normally charge £1 per young person to take part if the club takes place after school and we are using a visiting coach. For children who receive Free School Meals we negate the charge. All lunchtime clubs are free. Some clubs may require specific equipment, e.g. football boots, and will do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these by adding these items to our recycling rail at the front of the school. We already provide a strip and a tracksuit for any children who are representing the school at a sports festival or competition.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by providing craft materials, as required. We currently do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle, but staff try to keep abreast of individual circumstances and ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy, although parents/carers will be alerted if this happens regularly in order that support can be offered, as required. Next session, we will be looking to introduce homework clubs to support those children who may be struggling, as well as increase opportunities for family learning within the school.

We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance and will not be 'fixed' by any one action. In our Improvement Plan for 2019/20 we will be focusing on

- Reducing the cost of school trips by looking for more opportunities within the local area
- Setting dates in advance for school trips so that families know when these are and can start saving up for them, as necessary
- Applying for funding to support the cost of extra-curricular clubs
- Introducing a 'recycling rail' at the main office to support families with school uniform
- Introducing a Homework Club to support families who may not have materials or equipment at home
- Highlighting the benefits of ParentPay as a way of saving money on a regular basis
- Working in partnership with our Parent Council to identify ways in which families who are struggling may be supported.

This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day.