



Cost of the School Day Policy

“We all know the ferocious and long-lasting effect that poverty can have on children and young people’s lives and the impact it has on their health, social, emotional and cognitive development and educational outcomes.” SLC Cost of the School Day Toolkit, p5

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 at School, Fun Events, School Clubs, Home Learning and Attitudes towards Poverty. We have a Cost of the School Day Pupil Group who are involved in consultations regarding the about each of these themes.

Uniform

Our current school uniform is a pale blue shirt and tie, a blue polo shirt, 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. We also have a ‘recycling rail’ at the main office and make regular reference to this in our school newsletters. Families may donate any unwanted items, or take things that may be of use to their children.

We do not ask children to bring in a change of shoes; instead they are asked to come to school on PE days wearing trainers. In addition, warm winter clothing has been provided for identified children using our Winter Clothing Allowance, and we provide waterproofs, wellies and gloves for all the children in our nursery.

Travel

The majority of our children walk to school, with children also being encouraged to cycle or scoot to school if they wish. Children and families are encouraged to apply for the under 22 free bus travel: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/nec/. We are aware that relying on school crossing patrollers being available can mean that a number of children are not able to attend after-school clubs and so we ensure that we offer lunch-time activities, in addition to those which take place after school. Our Active Schools Coordinator also offers Positive Play Leader training for our P7 children so that they can involve the younger children in activities at lunchtime too.

We use our Participatory Budget to subsidise the cost of school trips and out of school activities for our most disadvantaged children.

Learning

Children at David Livingstone Memorial Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, etc 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 regularly promote free learning apps that parents/carers can download at home in our monthly newsletters. Whilst we encourage all children to log on to Google Classroom and have provided parents/carers

with information on how to access this, any child can request a paper copy of their termly homework if this makes things easier.

We have developed our own learning library in the school and nursery, and all children are able to borrow a book that they can then take home to read. Additional texts have also been provided as a gift for identified children.

Friendships

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. As part of 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.

Our Charities Committee organise one charity event per term to help support those who may be living in poverty both locally and beyond. Staff at all levels exercise caution when engaging in conversations relating to gifts, experiences, holidays, etc, with all birthday children receiving a special mention at our weekly assemblies.

Our P1 and P7 children engage in weekly 'buddy' activities, and our P6 children support the children from the nursery with ICT.

All our P1-P3 children engage in a 21st Century Families Award every year. All activities are free and no resources are required from home.

School Trips

Currently our trips are planned each year by class teachers and related to class learning, with each class currently being limited to one school excursion per session. The average cost of trips for pupils is £6, with targeted children and the cost of buses being subsidised from our Participatory Budget. All children wear school uniform on trips and do not need any money as we do not take children to any shops during school trips. We will also endeavour to 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.

Our Primary 7 residential is booked a year in advance and we always try to get the best value for money experience. Parents/carers can pay affordable amounts of money up each month through Parentpay over a 12-month period, and we provide them with a suggested payment plan to help them manage their budget. We encourage families to ask if they need help and support paying for the residential trip as we want to ensure that no child misses out due to money.

Staff have made effective use of virtual trips and are beginning to make better use of facilities in the local area, such as parks and open spaces. We are also looking to invite more visitors into our school so as to reduce the travel costs for children.

Eating at School

All Nursery to P5 children are entitled to free school meals and we encourage all families to use this entitlement. 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 this percentage, we ensure we make parents and carers aware of this as part of our P1 Transition Programme. We will also continue to raise awareness of free school meal entitlement through our monthly newsletters. Parents paying for meals use the ParentPay system which takes away the need for children to bring money to school. All children having

school lunch order online in class each morning and a list of children and their orders is sent to the kitchen, which takes away the stigma of free school meal entitlement tickets. Leftover fruit is given out free of charge should a child come to school without a snack.

Fun Events

At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School we recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We look carefully at attendance and participation in these events 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 aim 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. The Parent Council do not charge for any fun events, such as discos, and they also ensure that there are a number of free activities at our annual Christmas Fayre.

Each year, we have a Halloween costume and Christmas Jumper bank to encourage families to recycle and reuse clothing as opposed to spending money at these busy times of the year. Children do not dress up for World Book Day and/or charity events as this can put unnecessary financial pressure on families. We aim to keep dress down days to a minimum and promote high standards of wearing school uniform, to ensure that children and families do not experience pressure with regards to wearing certain items of clothing to school.

During our annual Health Week, all activities are free to all children.

At Christmas-time, staff and members of our wider community make up their own donation bags containing gifts of food/presents for identified families.

School Clubs

At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School, we have had a range of clubs, including multi-sports, football, athletics, dance and choir. There is no charge for these clubs and any fees for coaches are paid for using our Participatory Budget as part of our Pupil Equity Fund. 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 any resources that are needed. 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. For children who do not have access at home to ICT equipment to help them complete home learning, we make other arrangements for them to use ICT in school or to take ICT equipment home.

Home learning activities are posted on Google Classroom; however, staff will also issue a paper copy of this to children who request it.

Our nursery children are issued with their own home learning bag, and stationery kits are available for them to take home at any time.

Attitudes Towards Poverty

At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School, our aim is to reduce the stigma of poverty for both our pupils and families. The school has an open-door policy with parents/carers and they are encouraged to contact the school if they are experiencing poverty. The school engages annually in Action Poverty Week in October, where classes examine what poverty is and how it effects children and families.

We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance. As a result, minimising the Cost of the School Day for our families will continue to be a key priority.

August 2024

Review date August 2025