

**Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

**Park View Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council**

At Park View Primary 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 White shirt/blouse or white polo shirt, grey trousers, grey skirt/tartan skirt, grey cardigan/jumper, grey blazer, blue rain jacket and Park View tartan tie. For PE, the children should wear a white polo shirt, black leggings/shorts/joggers and soft shoes. Families can purchase uniforms from Scot Crest, Quarry Street, Hamilton. The online details for Scot Crest are available on the school website. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. During each session we work with our Parent Partnership to review and change, if necessary, our school uniform provider. We ask parents to hand in any uniform that their children don’t need anymore in order that we have some spares to give to families who may require them. At events in the school where parents are attending, we put out uniform items that have been handed in to ‘Lost Property’ in order that they can be reclaimed.

**Travel**

The majority of our children travel to school by car, bike or on foot. Some children also attend after school care clubs which are held out with the school. For some children this could mean that it is difficult to attend after school extra-curricular clubs and we therefore ensure that we have lunchtime activities as well as after school clubs. During 2018/19, we have had more than 10 extra-curricular clubs running before school or during lunchtime.

**Learning**

Children at Park View Primary 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. However, we do encourage children to bring in their own resources where possible to try to increase independence and responsibility.

**Friendships**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our ongoing Health and wellbeing programme and when covering the ‘Money’ Experiences and Outcomes from our Numeracy planners. We intend to gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and involve them in decision making around this.

**School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by staff and pupils. The average cost of trips for pupils varies. We try to reduce the cost by charging the children a maximum of £5 for curricular trips. We then use our school fund to supplement the cost. Our Parent Partnership also help by contributing towards the Primary 7 Leavers outing and the whole school Summer Reward trip. We have different fundraising events throughout the year to try to raise money to keep the cost of outings as low as possible. For most trips, including the Primary 7 residential trip, we allow the parents to spread the cost of payments out rather than having to pay all of the money at once. We do not currently have a policy for supporting families with more than one child.

**Eating at school**

In the last school year, we had 24.7 % 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 pre-populating the sheets where children record their lunches and by providing lists to staff in order that children don’t need to say out loud that they receive a free school meal. We know that there are a number of pupils, particularly in Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 who are eligible for Free School Meals but don’t take up their entitlement. In order to increase that percentage we intend to remind parents/carers via newsletters and speak to new parents when they join the school and at transition events for new Primary 1 pupils. We plan to encourage parents to actually use the entitlement and highlight approaches to them that we have in place to try to remove any stigma associated.

**Fun Events**

Park View Primary 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 staff and pupils. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by having jobs to do at the event. When we have non-uniform days, these are not compulsory and we ask for a donation rather than specifying how much needs to be paid. We currently fund raise in a number of different ways including having a sponsored event during our annual Health Week, fun afternoon organised by P7 pupils, Bring and Buy sales and non-uniform days. We have also previously taken part in bag packing at a supermarket to raise funds.

**School Clubs**

At Park View Primary we provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities for children of all ages. Almost all of these clubs are free for all children. If we have had to charge for a club, it has never been more than £1 per session per child. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g. tennis racquets and we do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these by providing school equipment if we have it or by borrowing from another school where possible.

**Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by helping children If they need additional materials/resources to complete homework tasks, by providing support in different ways. For example, we can print off tasks/worksheets for children who don’t have access to a computer at home or provide pupils with materials and/or resources to help them complete tasks. We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle but we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework **is not** linked directly to our Behaviour Policy and any pupil who does not complete homework is given an opportunity to complete homework in school. This may be time set aside by class teachers or by attending one of the homework club sessions run by our Pupil Support Assistants. We do ask that if a child is unable to complete homework for any reason that a note/letter is sent in by an adult at home to let us know if there is anything we can do to support.

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:

* Trying to further extend the number of extra-curricular clubs provided before and during the school day to allow more pupil participation.
* Looking to offer different ways to support parents/carers towards providing school uniform.
* Reinforcing ‘The Cost of The School Day’ through our Health and wellbeing and Numeracy Programmes.