

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

Quarter Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council

At Quarter 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 grey trousers/skirt, white polo shirt/blouse, grey/wine jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt, wine/silver tie and navy blazer. Families can purchase uniforms from Scotcrest or School Trends online. Please contact the school office for more details. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts.

Travel

The majority of our children walk to school and some travel to school by minibus or taxi. Transport is provided by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean some children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have lunch time activities as well as after school.

Learning

Children at Quarter 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 currently don't have a procedure for young people to borrow equipment if they need it for homework (e.g. paper or craft equipment). The school will consult with parents about homework and learning activities that require equipment.

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 positive behaviour policy, class charters and during assemblies. 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 depending on topics in consultation with pupils. The average cost of trips for pupils is between £5-£10 per child. We try to reduce the cost by using grants and sharing transport cost with our partner schools. External funding is used where possible. We currently do not have a policy for families with more than one child.

Eating at school

Last school year we had 19.4 % of pupils who were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch however Parent Pay selection of meals eradicates other children knowing who pays for meals and who don't. We estimate that approximately 100% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. We inform parents that free meals can be applied for on-line and give them details in our school handbook and through the school app.

Fun Events

Quarter Primary School 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 on an adhoc basis and try to keep costs to a minimum. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it. We currently fund raise by dress down days or raffles and understand that not all families are able to contribute so we simply ask for volunteers to supply prizes which may be handed into the school office.

School Clubs

At Quarter Primary School we have lunch time clubs and some after school clubs which are usually £1 per session. The clubs we run in school do not required equipment from home it is supplied by the school or club.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by. We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle and we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and parents are informed via school diaries when their child does not complete homework.

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. It is important to us that we consult with all stakeholders on the cost of the school day and agree on points to take forward to reduce costs.