



Glenlee Primary School

Cost of the School Day Position Statement



Rationale

In Glenlee 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
- ☐ Getting To School
- ☐ Learning In School
- ☐ Positive Relationships
- ☐ School Trips
- ☐ Eating In School
- ☐ Fun and Fundraising
- ☐ Clubs
- ☐ Home Learning

Uniform

Our current uniform consists of white shirt, yellow polo shirt, grey or black jumpers/cardigans and black/grey skirt/pinafore or trousers and black blazer and / or waterproof jacket. Yellow Summer dresses are also worn.

P7 hoodies are subsidised by the school fund at a reduced cost for parents.

As we do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts, uniforms can also be purchased at any appropriate retail outlet, thus taking advantage of seasonal offers.

We have 'nearly new' items available for families free of charge on request. All P7 pupils are gifted a tie by the Parent Council as they move to S1.

When attending sporting events pupils are provided with school tracksuits.

All families are informed and supported in applying for Clothing Grants.

Our partnership with Community Links has enabled parents to access the pop up Back To School event whereby they can access uniforms, haircuts, packed lunch bags/boxes, snacks etc for free.

Getting To School

Our children travel to school by walking, car or local transport if living out with catchment area.

Learning In School

Children at Glenlee Primary School and Nursery Class do not need to pay for any core learning activities. All stationery is provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. Homework kit bags are to be made available during session 2019-2020 for any children requiring stationary items at home.

We are aware of pupils who do not have access to technology at home and therefore this type of homework is not prescriptive. Additional access to technology can be arranged during the school day.

Positive Relationships

We use our strong pastoral care and knowledge of our children to ensure that if any pupil ever experienced poverty-related issues they have a way of reporting this in confidence. We will continue to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our Health and Well Being curriculum through whole school and stage assemblies and the promotion of our nurturing ethos. Play experiences and come and try sessions ensure equity for all. We will continue to gather views and opinions of our staff and Parent Council on 'The Cost of the School Day' and to involve them in decision making around this.

School Trips

We encourage each class to undertake one excursion each year related to their learning. Using South Lanarkshire Council's procedures, we plan each visit and ensure that families receive value for money by researching and procuring the best transport costs and by seeking external funding whenever possible.

Advance notice of trips is given to allow payment to be spread over a period of weeks. A capping of cost is made each year. Financial support is available for families requiring assistance..

Our Primary 7 pupils attend a Residential Trip each year. We reduced the number of days from 5 to 3 and book during quieter months to reduce costs. Parents are able to pay the cost of the trip in instalments over 12 months and pupils who receive Free School Meal entitlement and / or reside in SIMD deciles 1 or 2 can receive financial support. The centre we use provides all specialist clothing and equipment so no extra cost is incurred. All staff are committed to sourcing additional experiences for our pupils at low or no cost.

Eating In School

Our pupils have the option to attend the Glenlee Breakfast Club that runs from 8.00am to 8.45am each day. This facility is free and ensures children attending have access to a healthy breakfast, physical and creative play on a daily basis.

The introduction of Parent Pay has reduced the stigma of Free Meal Entitlement, as there is no way to identify pupils who receive free school meals.

Following agreements made with the Parent council, only P7 pupils are permitted to leave the school building unattended for lunch on a Friday, thus removing much of the pressure on families to provide cash for lunch from local shops.

Fun Events and Fundraising

We recognise that events planned for enjoyment and fundraising can actually put added financial pressure on to families. These are kept to a minimum and spread across the school year. As with school trips, our Fun Events and Fundraising are planned by pupils, staff and our Parent Council. We aim to balance the impact of donations etc. financially on families with the opportunity of giving citizenship experiences around helping others less fortunate. We support/collect for the local Foodbank and Hamilton Churches Drop In Centre. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by using funds provided by the Parent Council or school fund. We ensure that this is highly confidential and the individual children have no knowledge of this. No child is excluded from any activity for non-payment for activities if related to hardship. At Glenlee Primary School, we have a wide range of lunchtime and after school clubs. We do not charge for any club run by school or Active Schools staff. Although some clubs may require specialist equipment, such as football boots, pupils are not required to wear these items.

Home Learning

We have committed to providing Families Connect 8 week programmes for session 2019/2020. This is fully funded using Pupil Equity Fund. This provides parent with the opportunity to develop key skills, share a snack with their child and have the opportunity to develop their skills. Other parental engagement programmes will also be free of charge. In partnership with Community Links, we aim to host a Community Café whereby attendees from the school and local community can get advice around fuel savings, benefits, access to free services and supports. We are also engaging with plans emerging from OPOP to improve the experiences of our children living within the local community. We are very clear that 'The Cost of the School Day' is an area that requires a constant focus and will strive year on year to ensure it is central to all school developments and improvements.