



St Joseph's Primary School

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

At St Joseph's 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 and Fundraising
- Clubs
- Home Learning

Uniform

Our current uniform consists of a white shirt, navy cardigan/jumper, navy skirt/pinafore or trousers, navy blazer and/or waterproof jacket. Blue summer dresses are also worn. We ask that plain black footwear is worn.

As we do not insist on badged jumpers/poloshirts, uniforms can also be purchased at any appropriate retail outlet.

We have 'nearly new' items available for families free of charge. All P1 and S1 pupils are gifted a tie by the PTA.

When attending sporting events pupils are provided with school tracksuits.

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

Travel

Our children walk or are driven to school with some being transported by the Local Authority run bus. After school we are aware that some of our pupils attend clubs or would have difficulty in being collected later than 3pm. We are aware that this could mean many children are not being able to attend after school clubs. To ensure as many children as possible experience 'extra curricular' events we have lunch time activities as well as after school clubs.

Learning

Children at St Joseph's Primary 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 to school. The use of in school IT equipment is available during the school day to help with any research or topic related homework.

We provide all Primary 1 pupils with an induction folder, some stationery and suggested learning activities so that everyone has the same opportunity to learn when they start school.

Friendships

Our strong pastoral care and knowledge of our children, ensures that if any pupil ever experienced poverty-related bullying 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.

Through our Pupil Voice groups, we will consult with our pupils about 'The Cost of the School Day'.

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

Currently we plan an annual residential 4 day trip to Ardentenny. We try to reduce the cost through PEF and through external donations.

As a school we plan educational outings across the year and endeavour to keep this cost to a minimum by subsidising the travel costs through our PTA.

We do have a policy for families with more than one child and support them by charging only for the first two children with all others going 'free'.

Eating at school

Our pupils have the option to attend our Breakfast Club that is organised by South Lanarkshire Council and runs from 8.15 am to 8.45am each day.

Last school year we had 25% of pupils who were in receipt of Free School Meals.

Healthy snacks/fruit are provided for those pupils who do not bring a snack to school for interval.

Our pupils are not permitted to leave the school building unattended for lunch removing the pressure on families to provide cash for lunch from local shops.

Fun Events and Fundraising

St. Joseph's Primary School recognises that events planned for enjoyment and fundraising can actually put added financial pressure on to families. We currently 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 and Fundraising are planned by pupils, staff and our PTA.

When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by using funds provided by the PTA 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.

School Clubs

At St. Joseph's 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 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. We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by promoting no or low cost activities for families to participate in.

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

- Consulting with our pupils
- Working with our staff and Parent Council to consider how best to provide support to lower 'The Cost of the School Day' in particular any events that arise throughout year
- Communicating with parents / carers about habit of gift giving to staff and social activities throughout school year