

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

Woodside Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council



At Woodside Primary, we recognise the need to reduce the 'Cost of the School Day' for all pupils and particularly for pupils who are experiencing poverty. We consider this under the following headings, Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home learning.

This position statement has been reviewed to reflect our recovery into school after Covid in August 2020.

Uniform

Our current uniform is a red and grey tie, red sweater or cardigan with grey skirt or trousers. Families can purchase uniforms from 'Scotcrest' in the town centre. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts. We have a large stock of preloved uniform, which is managed by our Parent Council. Parents can select items as required.

Travel

The majority of our children travel to school by walking or by car. The Local Authority provides transport for most children living in Eddlewood and Ferniegair. We are aware that this may mean that many children are unable to attend after school clubs. However, at present we will not be offering any clubs.

Learning

Children at Woodside 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. We have a procedure for pupils to borrow equipment if they need it to complete tasks e.g. specific resource/craft equipment

Friendships

We work hard to ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related issues has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of regular PSE and financial education programmes. 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

The class teacher plans our trips each year. In consultation with all our parents, the average cost of trips for pupils is £5. We try to reduce the cost by subsidising the cost of the bus. We currently have a P7 Residential visit that runs for 5 days at the start of the new term. Parents are given around 8/9months notice of average cost, which allows parents to make weekly contributions. We are able as a school to offer financial support when required.

Due to the current situation, we will not be organising school trips.

Eating at school

Last school year, 19% of pupils were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we reduce this by using Parent Pay. We estimate that approximately 75 % of pupils who are eligible for 'Free School Meals' take up their entitlement. In order to increase this percentage we share the information on how to check if you are entitled to Free School Meals in both our handbook and the website.

Fun Events

Woodside Primary recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on families. Our Parent Council organise Fun Events throughout the school year. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity, we ensure they can still experience it by paying for them through the school fund.

Due to the current situation, we will be unable to organise any large events. However, we will be organising 4 dress down days over the course of the school year. On these days there will be an optional £1 donation. This will replace our annual fund-raiser. This money will be used to support families in the payment of 'panto' and 'trips' when required. All children take part in our fundraising events regardless of their donation.

School Clubs

At present, we will not be offering any school clubs.

Home Learning

During lockdown, an equitable access to home learning is critical to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to attain and remain in contact with their class teacher. We will consult with all parents and children to ensure all pupils have access to an electronic device. Support of ICT equipment will be organised if possible.

All pupils will be supplied with a jotter or resources as required, for their home learning. We will ensure all pupils, no matter their family circumstances, can complete all activities.

We are very aware 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 2020/21 we will be focusing on

- Calendar of financial events
- Recover of our whole school community
- Home learning
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This statement will be reviewed in June 2021.