** Cost of the School Day Policy**

**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 policy has been reviewed to reflect our return into school after Covid in August 2022.

**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. Open events are organised to allow parents to come in and select uniform.

**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.

**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.

**Participatory Budget (PB)**

PB was introduced into schools by SLC in Aug 2021. Each academic year, children, parents and other stakeholders will be consulted to explore issues that are affecting our young people and make suggestions for how best to support those who are affected by poverty. A voting form with all the ideas will be distributed to all stakeholders and the highest scoring vote will have 5% of our PEF allocation spent on it. In session 21-22, we spent the money to provide children with after school activities along with the opportunity to go on an educational excursion.

**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 10/11 months notice of average cost, which allows parents to make weekly contributions. We are able as a school to offer financial support when required. The use of our PEF budget ensures all children have the opportunity to experience a residential/school trip.

**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. Currently all children in Primary 1-5 are eligible for a free school meal. Our YCFL officer, provides supports and guidance to families to ensure all entitlements to Free School Meals are met. Links can be found on the school website and in our school handbook.

**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.

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 resources for fun days and ‘trips’ when required. All children take part in our fundraising events regardless of their donation.

**School Clubs**

We offer a variety of After School and Lunchtime clubs, these were free for all children to attend.

**Home Learning**

We ensure home learning resources are kept to a minimum and offer support with jotters and stationery as required. If children are completing home tasks on Google Classroom we audit our families to allocate ICT resources.

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 2022/23 we will be focusing on

* Support learners in numeracy
* Support learners in writing
* Increase attendance rates
* Support pupils by providing therapeutic interventions from Place2Be
* Support families to receive financial,emotional and targeted interventions from our YCFL officer.

This policy will be reviewed in June 2023.