

Cost of the School Day Policy

Woodside Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council

At Woodside, we are passionate about achieving excellence and equity for all and recognise the important role we play in facilitating this.



With this in mind, we refer to Article 28 in the UNCRC which states that, 'Children and young people have a right to an education no matter who they are,' and that, 'this should be achieved on a basis of equal opportunity.'

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.

Uniform

School Uniform is the biggest expense for families outside of school trips. Whilst it adds to the creation of our positive school ethos and sense of belonging, we aim to adopt a flexible and inclusive policy. 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/polo-shirts. We have a large stock of preloved uniform, which is managed by our Parent Council. Whilst preloved uniform is readily available throughout the school year, we raise the profile of this during Parent's Evenings and Open Events. We also ensure it is consistently mentioned on newsletters.

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. In order to ensure opportunities to attend clubs is as equitable as possible, we have free playtime clubs lead by our Primary Sevens and lunchtime clubs that are provided free by our Active Schools Co-Ordinator.

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. At Woodside, all staff show empathy and compassion to any child or young person who is struggling with attendance, attainment, participation and/or engagement in education caused or exacerbated by poverty. We believe that our best support for identified pupils is in the intervention we provide. We do this in a variety of ways including; intervention teachers, a Place2Be councillor and covering costs for outings.

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. All pupils, staff and parents/carers have the opportunity to vote on what they money should be spent on. Our PB Pupil Voice Group meet at regular points throughout this year to establish how we will spend this funding and to evaluate the impact that it is having.

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

As costs begin to rise, we have made a commitment to keeping the price of these outings to our families at £5. We try to reduce the cost by subsidising the cost of the bus. Parents can pay this over time throughout the school year from August - March. A letter is issued to parents providing the email address and phone number of our Equity Lead who they can contact at any time, with complete confidentiality if they will struggle to make this payment. We currently have a P7 Residential visit that runs for 5 days at the start of the new term. In line with SLC's Cost of the School Day guidance, parents are given 17 months notice. As a school, we are able 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

Woodside Primary is committed to ensuring that no child starts lessons hungry. Over the past 3 years, we have introduced a free 'Toast to Go' service which is available from 8.30am every morning to all pupils. 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.. Links can be found on the school website and in our school handbook. All children are offered surplus food and fruit at the end of lunch service.

Fun Events

Woodside Primary recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on families. 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 organise 4 dress down days over the course of the school year. On these days there will be an optional 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. All charity and/or fun events will be planned in advance, and communicated timeously with families.

Throughout the school year our Parent Council organise a number of events including School Discos and an extremely successful Summer Fayre. The profits raised from this are invested back into our school. Some of these profits have provided prizes for our Community Learning

Event to encourage parental engagement, new PE equipment and £50 for class teachers to spend on additional class resources and playground resources. During Parent Council Meetings, Cost of the School Day is kept as a regular item on the agenda, and they will ensure there is a free option at events.

School Clubs

We offer a variety of After School, Lunchtime, and Playtime Clubs. These are free for all children to attend and take place throughout the school year. Parental Engagement sessions are central to what we do at Woodside. Throughout the year we offer 'Stay and Play' literacy and numeracy sessions to targeted families from Primary 1 – Primary 7. Most recently, we have introduced the You + Me (Multiply) family learning programme, working with parents and pupils to upskill them in relation to numeracy and increase their confidence and skill in numeracy.

Home Learning

We ensure home learning resources are kept to a minimum and offer support with jotters and stationery as required.

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.

Woodside Primary



Cost of the School Day Calendar 25-26

Date	Event	Information
Aug - April	School Trips	£5 contribution to be made via Parent Pay
Tuesday 16 th Sept	School Photos	Parent Council to arrange this
Friday 10 th October	Dress down day (House Colours)	Donation
Nov	Celebration Cards 6th Nov Disco	More info to follow from Parent Council
Friday 21st November	Dress down (PJs as part of Book Week Scotland)	Donation
Thursday 26 th Feb	Disco	Parent Council
Thursday 26 th March	Dress down – wear something you recycle as part of Sustainability week	Donation
Thursday 21 st May (Pupils to vote)	Dress down	Donation
5 th June	Parent Council summer event	Summer event arranged by the Parent Council.

