

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

Udston Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council

At Udston 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, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home learning.

Uniform – In consultation with parents/carers, our current uniform is:

- Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- Royal blue or white polo shirt; white shirt and school tie
- Royal blue or grey jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan
- Blue and white checked summer dress
- Black gym shoes (for indoor use)

Families can purchase uniforms from most high street stores/online or local supplier, Scotcrest in Hamilton. We do not insist on badged clothing/accessories. Next session we intend to continue being part of the Community Links' Summer Event whereby donated school uniform is recycled. This takes place on 7th August 2019. **Travel** – the majority of our children walk or are driven to school. Transport is provided for a small number of pupils whose catchment determines free travel arrangements being made by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean a small number of our pupils are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore aim to offer lunch time activities, as well as before and after school.

Learning – children at Udston Primary School 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 currently have a procedure for young people to borrow equipment if they need it for homework (e.g. pencils, craft equipment). This session we aim to use PEF funding to cover the cost of P7 swimming lessons and the transport required for this. By doing so, every pupil has the opportunity to learn this important life skill.

Friendships

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our Health and Wellbeing programme, as well as part of our Financial Education programme. We gathered the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day in March of this year and will continue to involve them in decision making around this.

School Trips

Currently our trips are planned each year in consultation with teaching staff. The average cost of trips for pupils is dependent on the cost of transport. We try to reduce the cost by arranging educational visits to places where entry is free. School fund or external funding is used where possible and last session we were able to cover the cost of all class transport .

Eating at school

Last school year we had a number of families who were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch, however having Parentpay now in school, should ease any pressure felt by families as ultimately no pupils will need to bring money into school in the very near future. We estimate that there are still many families who are eligible for Free School Meals but who do not take up their entitlement. In order to increase that percentage we intend to keep signposting families to eligibility to emerging grants and FME information in line with SLC information.

Fundraising Events

Udston Primary School recognise that events planned for raising funds and enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We have been looking 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 Fundraising Events are included in our annual calendar, however this session we have put greater emphasis on awareness raising of high profile causes, rather than fundraise for them. We currently have one school fundraising event per year and place greater emphasis now on optional donations. We understand that not all families are able to contribute, and no child is excluded from activities planned.

School Clubs

At Udston Primary School we have a wide range of extra-curricular clubs. Some take place before school, lunchtimes and after school. More information is provided in our school website, and updated information is accessed via our school app.

We do not charge for a young person to take part. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g bike and cycling helmet, or football boots. We do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these by having a supply of pre-owned football boots and having secured previous funding for 12 children's bikes and helmets, and two adult bikes and helmets.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by offering a lunchtime homework club for pupils to access online homework tasks. We ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils, no matter their family circumstances. Homework is not linked to our Positive Behaviour Position Statement.

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 this.

This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day.