



At Douglas Primary School and ELC 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, Home Learning, School trips, Eating, Fun and School Clubs.



Uniform - Our current uniform is grey/black trousers/skirts/tartan pinafores, red sweatshirts and yellow polo shirts. Families can purchase uniforms from ALJ Workwear in Lanark. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. We have Uniform Bank located at the main office with 'previously owned' items of uniform that are of a suitable standard to be reused. This will allow families to select items free of charge which may help with uniform.

Travel - Most of our pupils live within walking distance of the school and either walk or come by car. Pupils from Glespin are entitled to transport this is provided for the majority by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean that some children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore will ensure that we have lunch time activities as well as after school clubs to alleviate the pressure of children being collected from school at 4pm.



Upon their 5th birthday all pupils are issued with the information required to apply for their Under 22 free bus pass.



Learning - Children at Douglas Primary School & ELC 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 although we are aware that many children like to do this.

Home Learning - We currently have a procedure for young people to borrow equipment if they need it for home learning (e.g. a calculator or craft equipment). We also have a library of digital devices that can be taken out on loan to enable all children to have access technology. Due to the location of the school and outlying villages access to the internet can be limited even with the use of mi-fi devices. In any such case, pupils have been offered alternative paper-based learning packs to support learning from home.

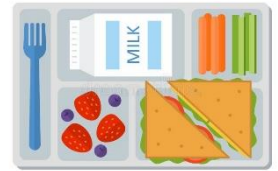


Friendships - We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We teach young people about poverty related issues through our curriculum within such areas as Financial Education, Health and Wellbeing and Global Citizenship work.

School Trips - Currently our trips are planned each year in relation to learning opportunities and relevant points of interest. All educational excursion that are held during the school day are fully funded. Residential trips for our P7 group of pupils do incur some cost to parents/carers. However, we try to reduce the cost through the valuable support of our Parent Council and by using school funds. Such outings as our Residential experiences can be paid in instalments over a period of time (at least 18 months' notice/or the equivalent of £20 per month payment – whichever is greatest). The local Community Trust also welcomes applications from the school and individual pupils to fund the cost of whole school trips or for individuals to pay for residential excursions.



Eating at school - We currently have over 30% of our children in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we try to reduce this by never discussing who has a free school meal. By using ParentPay for parents to pay for lunches this removes any stigma previously associated with children not paying for their lunch with cash. We remind P1-5 parents regularly about their entitlement to Free School Meals. Free School Meal entitlement is now allocated automatically if a family has qualifying benefits.



Fun Events - At Douglas Primary & ELC we recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We look carefully at attendance and participation in these events in order to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity, we ensure they can still experience it by ensuring families know that those experiencing financial difficulties can speak confidentially to the school and there will be an arrangement put in place to support them and their children discretely. When undertaking school or Parent Council fund raising events, we recognise that not all families are able to contribute and deal with this in a discrete manner. Our Parent Council actively help us to support families who may be experiencing financial difficulties through their contributions. To participate in some of our events we simply ask for a donation and not a fixed amount.

School Clubs - At Douglas Primary and ELC we have many clubs including breakfast club, dance, netball, football, multi-sports, running, Lego and cooking etc. We do not charge for any school clubs that run before, during or after school. All equipment required to take part in the clubs is provided by the school the children only have to provide the clothing they wish to wear. We use School Funds in order to pay for our pupils to attend events related to the school clubs such as football and netball tournaments or the local athletics tournaments.



At Douglas Primary School and ELC we are committed to reducing the Cost of the School Day.

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. We will continue to ensure the following points are actioned on at least an annual basis.

- Providing advance notice for parents of activities and events that have a cost involved. (Cost of the School Day Calendar to be published termly)
- Clearly communicating that non-branded school uniform is totally acceptable at Douglas PS & ELC.
- Promoting our Clothing Bank to of pre-used uniform and pre-used footwear that is still of a good quality.
- Gathering the views of parents with regards to what/when we ask for money to gain a confidential understanding of the views of the parent forum which, in turn will inform our future practice. (Agenda item at Parent Council Meetings)
- Continue to monitor engagement with online learning platforms and offer devices, training or alternative paper-based packs to those that require support to engage.
- Monitoring club participation and offer regular lunch time clubs to pupils who may have issues with transport at the end of the school day.
- Continuing to ensure that we as a school and our Parent Council are alert to our concerns around The Cost of the School Day when planning events and activities.
- Raise awareness of local charity organisations e.g. Clydesdale Foodbank/Money Matters

** This policy was created in collaboration between all primary establishments within Lanark Learning Community but reflects the current practice at Douglas Primary School and ELC.*