

WISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Cost of the School Day Position Statement

Wiston Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council

At Wiston 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 – our current uniform is white polo shirt, red sweat shirt, grey skirt or trousers. Families can purchase uniforms from ALJ Supplies, Lanark. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. We have a selection of second hand uniform items available to purchase in school at a minimal cost.

Travel – the majority of our children travel to school by bus. Transport is provided for the majority by the Local Authority . We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have lunch time activities as well as after school

Learning – children at Wiston 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 a Notebook or craft equipment).

Friendships

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of PSE. We already 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

Currently our trips are planned each year by the school. We try to reduce the cost by accessing contributions from the Wiston PS Parent Council. We try as far as possible to pay for/ limit the cost of these for FSM children.

Eating at school

Last school year we had 6% of pupils who were 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 all children accessing Parent Pay choice board, no money changes hand. We estimate that all of the pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement.

Fun Events

Wiston Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We currently look 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 Fun Events are planned by staff. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by covering some/all of the cost either through school fund, PEF or external support. We currently fund raise by an annual Fun Day and understand that not all families are able to contribute so this term we have had a Bag Packing Day which all families could support.

School Clubs

At Wiston Primary School we have a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs. We do not normally charge to take part. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g badminton racquet, football boots, and we do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible. We do/do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle and we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances.

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

- Health & Wellbeing: focusing on nurture and developing resilience

{Please note that Maureen Farr, Development Officer, is available to do Awareness Raising session with staff at CAT nights or, for SAC schools, ½ day or twilight sessions which are more in-depth and involve staff engaging with the CPAG toolkit}

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

