



# Cost of the School Day

*Policy Updated March 2021*



At Muiredge Primary 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 pupils are expected to wear includes:

- Black jacket or School blazer
- Black skirt/trousers
- Black jumper, cardigan or vest (school badge optional)
- White shirt and school tie
- Black shoes or boots
- Black gym shoes for indoor use

On PE days children are expected to wear:

- Black shorts or plain black leggings/trousers
- Yellow polo shirt (school badge optional)
- Trainers

Families can purchase uniforms from:

**myclothing.com** (<https://myclothing.com>) or **Scotcrest**: 41 Quarry Street, Hamilton, ML3 7AH, 01698 760438  
<https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/>

Ties and blazer badges will be stocked, and will also continue to be available from Bib and Tucker, Uddingston. You can also purchase a tie from the school office.

To ease costs, we do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. We also have a second hand school uniform stall at our Summer Fete to assist with affordability of uniform. We also provide uniforms to families in need at our own discretion.

## **Travel**

The majority of our children travel to school by walking. This gives most pupils the opportunity to attend after school clubs. We also offer a wide range of lunch clubs.



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## **Learning**

Children at Muiredge Primary do not need to pay for any core learning activities. Pens and pencils are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. We provide pupils with the necessary equipment for learning and give opportunities for pupils to access computers in class and at break times if they are unable to do so at home to complete tasks. We will continue to review our approach to ensure equality next session.

## **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 our Health and Wellbeing programme. 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 next session.

## **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by class teachers. The average cost of trips for pupils is £9. We try to reduce the cost where possible and classes can offset costs using funds raised as part of school enterprise work. When appropriate we use external funding or visit local attractions that are free of charge. Our residential trip has a payment plan option to spread the cost over the school year.

## **Eating at school**

Last school year we had 5% 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 our coloured band system and use of Parent Pay. We estimate that approximately 69% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. In order to increase that percentage we intend to invite parents and families along to our free of charge kids kitchen activities



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## **Fun Events**

Muireedge Primary recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We intend to 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 school staff and our Parent Council who consider cost of the school day. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it, by school staff inviting pupils along discreetly, with no charge. We currently fund raise throughout the year through our Parent Council and FAST committee events, we ensure that some of the events are provided for free or have activities with no cost which everyone can get involved in. We understand that not all families are able to contribute so we use external sources including applying for funding from the local council and community groups and local businesses who often support the school.

## **School Clubs**

At Muireedge Primary we have the following clubs: hockey, chess, multi sports, cross country, athletics and tennis. Only 2 of these clubs have a charge and for children who receive Free School Meals we negate the charge. 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 by providing equipment through regular donation drives held in school.

## **Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by providing pupils with the necessary equipment needed to achieve success. We lend equipment for pupils who may struggle and we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances, this may mean homework is completed in school with support. Our approach to home learning uses Google Classroom and focuses on dialogue as a powerful tool to build partnerships with parents.

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 highlights areas related to cost of the school day to ensure this remains an ongoing focus.



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