

## **DRAFT Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

### **Biggar Primary School, South Lanarkshire Council**

At Biggar 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 is a white polo shirt and a blue school sweatshirt. Families can purchase uniforms from ALJ Work and Leisurewear or Brown and Out. We do not insist on badged polo-shirts, but prefer everyone to have a badged sweatshirt. We offer recycled uniforms at the end of a session and are supported by a local charity WomenKIND to provide uniforms for families who need support. Next session we intend to update our practice by offering recycled sweatshirts throughout the session.

**Travel** – the majority of our children travel to school by car/walking but some pupils have transport provided 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 Biggar 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 currently do not have not 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 of an anti-bullying 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.

### **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by class teachers in relation to correct class work. The average cost of trips for pupils is £10. We try to reduce the cost by using our local environment and subsidising the cost of the trip. External funding is used where possible and last session we secured bus subsidies for trips under Historic Scotland. We do not have a policy for families with more than one child and intend to look at solutions to this next session.

We also have an annual residential trip which was traditionally for P6 & P7 but we have changed this to only be P7. At the planning stage awareness is raised about local charity support from WomenKIND and a savings plan is put in place for families.

### **Eating at school**

Last school year we had 8% 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 having procedures that do not draw attention to these facts for children involved. In order to increase the percentage of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals to take up their entitlement we intend to publicise information on how to claim in broader variety of ways.

### **Fun Events**

Biggar 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 annual Fun Events are planned by the Parent Council and some are organised throughout the year by pupil committees. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by paying the cost. We currently fund raise by hosting a school concert or having a sponsored event and understand that not all families are able to contribute so participation is not dependent on returning a sponsor form.

### **School Clubs**

At Biggar Primary we have the following clubs: dance, rugby, homework, cycling proficiency }. We do not charge pupils to take part and we provide specific equipment e.g badminton racquet that may be required for some clubs.

### **Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by planning the activities that are given as homework and ensuring that these do not incur costs. We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle but we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and any pupil who does not complete homework is provided with the opportunity to complete it at an alternative time eg homework club.

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

- Consulting with all stakeholders using the Cost of the School Day toolkit

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