



Cost of the School Day Statement

Freuchie Primary School

How do education policies and school practices in Freuchie impact on the participation and school experiences of children and young people from low income households?

Families are under more financial pressure than ever before with rising costs of food, petrol, utilities, balanced against salaries not rising. All families will be affected in some way by this. At Freuchie, we aim to ease this burden by understanding it and taking practical steps to ease and reduce it.

What does Cost of the School Day mean?

It is the costs incurred by families to

- Send their children to school
- Provide clothing
- Provide “essentials”
- Take part in school activities

The cost of the school day can be a hidden cost for families throughout the school year. Costs are incurred can include school uniform, educational excursions, extra-curricular activities, dress down days and enterprise activities.

The hidden costs of the school day can affect all families. It is difficult to identify all families who fall into these categories.

The main contributing factors are

- Families on a low income
- Families with low disposable incomes
- Families with multiple children
- Lack of notice about impending payments
- Payments being requested at difficult times of the session
- Too many requests for payments at the same time

How does Freuchie Primary help with the cost of the school day?

- Parents are only asked to ‘pay what they can’ for school trips which are usually once per year. This was discussed and agreed by Freuchie Parent Council and no child will go without.
- We limit dress-down days and fundraisers. All fundraising is donation only and it is made clear in the letter that all will participate regardless of whether a donation is made.
- Provide school uniform and gym kit for a small number of our families who experience significant financial hardship and point all families in the direction of the free school uniform shop at the Lumsden Hall.

- We collect food for the Lumsden Larder, our local foodbank and advertise this free resource to the school and nursery communities.
- Have funded and part-funded P7 residential for pupils who would otherwise be unable to attend. The availability of this financial support is made clear in all correspondence. Families are given at least one year to pay for the trip so that small instalments can be spread over the year.
- Almost all resources are provided to children in school. Some children enjoy bringing their own pencils etc. but this is not a requirement.
- No financial contribution is asked for attending any event where the children are representing the school.
- Our P7s are gifted a tie by BBHS, our local secondary school.
- We share links on our newsletter and Seesaw on grants/funding available for low-income families.
- We have accessed additional child-care and holiday provision places for low-income families.
- Sponsorship events are one per family rather than one per child and it is made clear that everyone can participate regardless of donation.
- Nursery staff are flexible around the payment of the non-essential Nursery contribution. Parents can pay weekly and if there are any financial difficulties, the contribution is waved.
- All extra-curricular activities are free when taking place at our school.

In Summary

At Freuchie Primary School, we will continue to support families in any way we can to ensure that everyone experiences the same rich, diverse curriculum regardless of financial circumstances. ***We urge anyone who is experiencing financial hardship to contact the school so we can find the best source of support for you.***

Useful Websites

- [Cost of Living Support \(fife.scot\)](https://www.fife.scot.nhs.uk/cost-of-living-support)
- [Benefits and money advice | Fife Council](https://www.fife.gov.uk/benefits-and-money-advice)