

**Maxwellton
Primary School
2020-2021**



**Cost of the School Day
Position Statement**



Maxwellton Primary School and Nursery

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

Recent guidance from NHS Health Scotland and 'Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland' highlight the hidden cost of the school day. (<http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/cost-school-day-toolkit>)

At Maxwellton Primary School and Nursery Class, we recognise that we 'must enable all of our children to take full and equal advantage of opportunities in school and consider how to reduce the extra costs for parents and carers.

At Maxwellton 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 black trousers or skirt and a white shirt or polo shirt with a red jumper/sweatshirt.

Families can purchase uniforms from <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/> or <https://school.cott.pro/>.

We **do not** insist on badged sweatshirts or polo shirts.

We will attempt to minimise the hidden cost of the school day through...

- Making pre-loved items of school uniform available for an optional donation.
- Including unbranded items of school uniform in our dress-code.
- Sharing the procedures for applying for clothing grants via our newsletters and website

Travel

The majority of our children travel to school by foot or some by car. We are aware that this could mean some children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have lunchtime activities as well as after school activities. We are seeking to build up the amount of lunch time clubs that we offer our pupils.

Learning

Children at Maxwellton 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).

We provide resources to participate in annual competitions if required.

We make digital technologies available to children at lunchtime that need to do research for their topics through our digital technologies lunchtime club.

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 curriculum and anti-bullying focus weeks. 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 the class teacher. The average cost of trips for pupils is £7. We try to reduce the cost by subsidising the cost of the bus. At present, we do not have a policy for families with more than one child. This will be reviewed next session. We currently have a P7 Residential visit that runs for 3 days in the final term. Parents are given around 8/9 months notice of average cost, which allows parents to make weekly contributions. We are able as a school to offer financial support when required.

We try to reduce the cost of school trips by ...

- Setting a maximum limit to the cost of school trips organised.
- Organising no more than one educational excursion per class per year that we ask parents to contribute towards the cost.
- Applying for transport subsidies when available to reduce the cost of school trips.
- Using Parent Council/school funds to reduce the cost of school trips.
- Where transport for sporting outings requires a cost, ensuring that this is a 'donation'.
- Reducing suggested spending money for trips or not visiting the 'shop' on school trips

Eating at school

This school year, 14% of pupils were in receipt of Free School Meals. Any stigma associated with a free lunch has been reduced with the introduction of Parent Pay. We estimate that approximately 70 % of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. In order to increase that percentage we intend to highlight the information in the school newsletter and website.

We have a 'Maxwellton Fruit Bowl', which is filled with, fruit each week and is available to our children at all times if they require a snack or piece of fruit for fruit and story time. This is well used by our children and there is no wastage at the end of the week.

Next session we are also looking forward to introducing our 'Toast Bar' where toast a slice of toast will be available from the 'Toast bar' for pupils from 8.45am onwards.

We have a well-established Breakfast club running within our school from 7.45am-9.00am

Fun Events

Maxwellton Primary recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on 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. We have looked closely at events like 'World Book Day' and whilst we still celebrate this day within our school we no longer ask children to dress up in costumes for this event. Our Parent Council organise Fun Events throughout the school year. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity, we ensure they can still experience it by paying for them through school fund. Our annual fund-raiser is used to support families in the payment of 'panto' and 'trips' when required. All children take part in our fundraising events regardless of their donation.

School Clubs

At Maxwellton Primary School, we have the following clubs; football, athletics, netball, Multisport, drama, board games, arts and crafts and many more. We do not charge our children to take part in after school activities. The only time we would charge would be if an instructor has to be paid for. For children who receive Free School Meals, we do not charge. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g badminton racquet, football boots. We do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these, by letting them borrow equipment as necessary.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by lending equipment and providing craft materials.

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, therefore there is no sanction for non-completion of homework.

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 2020/21 we will be focusing on

- Training of staff on the 'Cost of the School Day and development of a Cost of the School Day position statement to be shared with all stakeholders.
- Engagement with the Cost of The School day Toolkit with staff, children and parents
- Reviewing costings of all school trips
- Development of Maxwellton Fruit Bowl and Toast Bar