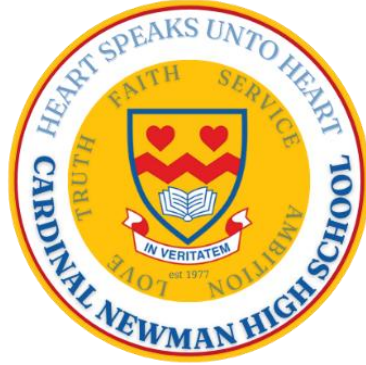


Cardinal Newman High School



Poverty Proofing Policy

“Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent, or buy the essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation – and even discrimination – because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.”

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Cardinal Newman High School Poverty Proofing Policy

Review Date: January 2026

Responsible Staff: Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Pupil Support Team, Pupil Equity Fund Team (PEF).

Policy Statement

Cardinal Newman High School is committed to ensuring that no child or young person experiences disadvantage or exclusion due to poverty. We recognise that financial hardship can impact attendance, attainment, participation, and wellbeing. Our Poverty Proofing Policy aims to remove financial barriers, promote equity, and uphold the principles of **Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)**.

Aims and Objectives

- **Reduce the Cost of the School Day (CoSD)** in line with North Lanarkshire Council and Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) guidance.
- Ensure all school activities, resources, and expectations are **inclusive and affordable**.
- Promote **dignity, respect, and fairness** for all learners and families.
- Use **Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)** strategically to target support for children most affected by poverty.
- Work in **partnership with parents, carers, and the community** to identify and address barriers to participation.

Key Areas of Focus

Uniform and Clothing

- We provide clear, affordable uniform guidelines at transition presentations.
- We run a store containing items of new high-quality uniform and promote pre-loved blazer schemes.
- Whole School Spreadsheets are kept and updated regularly on young people who require assistance with uniform, lunch money and bus fare etc.
- Advice and assistance is given to families claiming Clothing Grants. We maintain a discreet process for young people requiring further uniform assistance.
- We have a variety of partnerships with local organisations such as The William Grant Foundation, the YMCA, Tesco and Bellshill Community Trust.

Period Poverty

- To mitigate period poverty all young people have access to safe, hygienic sanitary products in school and these are available to take home.
- The whole school community is made aware of product locations and staff who they can speak to confidentially. Discretion and dignity is a priority in our planning.
- Education and awareness of the hygiene issues surrounding menstruation are crucial and embedded into the curriculum through Health and Wellbeing lessons so that students develop a sound knowledge and understanding of how to manage their period safely.

Learning Materials

- All essential materials, stationery, and digital resources are provided free of charge.
- Departments ensure that homework tasks do not assume access to costly materials or technology.
- Devices such as laptops and internet access support is offered through local authority or school funding when relevant.

School Trips and Experiences

- All educational trips are subsidised or fully funded for families in need.
- Residential trips have flexible payment options, fundraising, or sponsorship.

Meals and Snacks

- All staff encourage the uptake of Free School Meals (FSM) and maintain confidentiality.
- Our Breakfast Club is funded through our School Fund and community partnerships.
- Snacks are provided on request regardless of financial background from PST and DHTs.
- Refillable water bottles are provided which young people can borrow daily.

Fundraising and Events

- We apply for grants when available from e.g. Cash for Kids allowing family assistance during periods of school closures and Christmas holidays.
- We work closely with neighbouring Parishes who support families for Pilgrimages and additional gifts at Christmas.
- We engage fully with partner's like CLD and The Celtic Foundation who also award identified young people vouchers at Christmas.
- Non-uniform days, reward events, and celebrations are optional and low-cost. There all also a variety of celebration/reward activities throughout the year for no cost.
- Activities such as World Book Day, Christmas Jumper Day, etc., include free participation options.

Digital Inclusion

- Families are supported with connectivity and digital devices in line with NLC policies. Training and assistance is also provided for families where possible.
- We promote equitable access to online learning, homework platforms, and parental engagement tools.

Consultation and Pupil Voice

- Our School Finance Group includes young people who discuss and agree on expenditure from the Budget, Establishment Fund and Financial Awards from partners.
- Annual **Cost of the School Day audit** and surveys are used to determine any social changes and to identify new barriers.
- The Pupil Council and Rights Respecting Schools Group are regularly consulted.

Communication

- All families and young people who are identified through our transition programme are discussed at PST/PEF meetings to ensure we assist where required.
- Pupil Support Teachers identify and report on any families whose financial situation

- changes throughout the year after communication with parents/carers.
- We include financial assistance information in newsletters, the school website, “X” and Instagram Sites. PST also pass on information to families during parent meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Regularly reviews of policies occur through SLT meetings and School Improvement Plan priorities.
- The Attendance Policy and Procedures which have resulted through our AABOUT Programme allow for the evaluation of impact using measures such as attendance, participation rates, and attainment data.

Commitment

We are proud to be a **poverty-aware, inclusive, and nurturing school community**. We will continue to challenge stigma, remove barriers, and ensure that every child in our school community has an equal opportunity to learn, achieve, and succeed.

Examples of Initiatives

Initiative	
Subject Costs	Removal of the cost of school subjects – Home Economics, Scientific Calculators.
Access to Water	Installation of water fountains to encourage pupils to drink more water.
William Grant Fund	Mental Health and Wellbeing initiatives for all plus targeted support for our most vulnerable families.
Uniform Bank	Access to all items of free of charge to targeted families and season appropriate clothing when required. School Budget and community funding used.
Period Products	Free and easily accessible period products for all – signposted areas and targeted parcels.
S1 – S3 Breakfast Club	Free fruit, breakfast bars and “Snacks to Go” for break.
Excursion Subsidies	Ensuring all children can experience education outside the classroom.
Community Spirit	Food Parcels, Christmas Parcels and Food Vouchers. Funding applications to “Cash for Kids” enables us to purchase Uniform items but also high-quality clothing, school bags, tights, trainers, presents, hygiene products etc.
Foodbank Referrals	Communities Together, YMCA and Viewpark Action Group.
Senior School Cost Calendar	This allows parents and young people to plan and save for S6 events. Various initiatives to allow all pupils to participate in purchasing Yearbook, Leavers Hoodies and attending the Prom etc.
Wellbeing Packs	Targeted intervention to ensure pupils have access to personal hygiene products and appropriate seasonal clothing.
Stationery	Targeted intervention for young people without the required stationery from H McGhee / PST.
PE T-Shirts	Items issued after referral from Pupil Support Team.
Water Bottles	Targeted intervention for young people not in possession of a refillable water bottle from H McGhee / PST.
FSM Top-up	Targeted intervention for young people requiring additionality to their FSM entitlement from H McGhee / PST

Contact Details for Financial Support

Tackling Poverty Team	By telephone on 01698 332551 By email TPteam@northlan.gov.uk
Citizens Advice Scotland	By telephone on 01698 748615 By email: www.bellshillcab.org.uk Address: 6 Hamilton Road, Bellshill