**Allanton Primary School and Nursery Class**

Schools have a key role to play in tackling poverty and serving all learners equally is not enough – there needs to be a specific focus on those children and young people who are growing up in poverty. Within Allanton Primary School and Nursery Class we believe that tackling disadvantage is at the heart of what we do.

More than one in five (210,000) children across Scotland are officially recognised as living in poverty. In North Lanarkshire, it is estimated that 24.9% (17, 922) of children are in poverty. Insufficient household income can mean that some children and young people don’t have the resources needed for school and can’t easily afford to take part in school activities which cost money. This can put them at risk of missing out on opportunities at school and feeling different, excluded and unhappy.

UNICEF estimates that 19% of British children live in food insecure households. This means that there are times when their household does not have enough money to buy enough food, or they cannot buy the full variety of foods needed for a healthy diet.

Education structures, policies and practices affect children and young people from low income households and can present difficulties and financial barriers to participation throughout the school and nursery day. Understanding more about this from children’s perspectives can support Education and Families, schools and family learning centres to poverty-proof their policies and practices so that conditions are right for all children and young people to learn and to achieve.

This policy details our plan to poverty proof our School and Nursery Class.

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| Our allocated Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) will help to close the poverty related attainment gap by improving the educational outcomes for children. The Pupil Equity Funding enables us to deliver activities, interventions or resources that are clearly additional to those, which were already planned. Our funding aligns with our School Improvement Plan and School Improvement Report. Parents and carers, children and other key stakeholders are involved in the planned spending.  Our main focus will on the bulleted headings below.   * Intervention and prevention * Promoting a high quality learning experience * Targeted approaches to literacy and numeracy   We are addressing the cost of a school day by:  **Uniforms**   * Improve the promotion of school clothing grants to parents and carers. * Hold uniform recycling days. * Source, purchased and recommend cheaper suppliers to parents and carers   **Resources**   * Ensure that resources are on hand in class for everyone. * Make sure that all teaching staff have consistent expectations around resources. * Ensure pupils have access to ICT at home. |

Our policy covers four over-arching themes:

1. School and Family Learning Centre Poverty: this section of the policy focuses on tackling poverty via a review of the ‘Cost of the School/ Nursery Day’ and the continued focus on tackling period poverty.

2. Food Poverty: this section of the policy links to North Lanarkshire’s ‘Children’s Right to Food Charter’ and focuses on our role in the continued development of Club 365 and increasing the uptake of free school meal and breakfast club provision.

3. Maximising Income: this section of our policy focuses on Financial Education for children and their families in partnership with North Lanarkshire’s Financial Inclusion Team. It also provides details on how the cluster will work effectively on identifying those children living in poverty and supports which will be provided to their families.

4. Fuel and Material Poverty: this section of our policy focuses on consideration of the impacts of these types of poverty and actions which must be taken.

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| **To make a referral to the Financial Inclusion Team we will follow this process:**  **Email: FIT@northlan.gov.uk**  **Alternatively, if a parent or carer wishes to self-refer they can call 01698 332551**. |