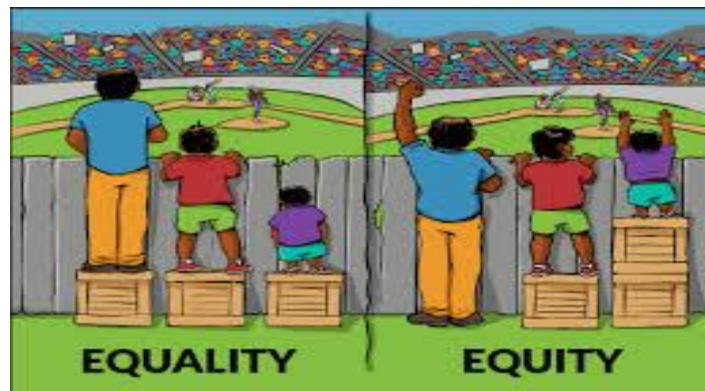


Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Poverty Proofing Policy



responsi**B**ility

gr**A**ttitude

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

hu**M**ility and forgiveness

persever**A**nce

Love

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

h**O**nesty and gener**O**sity

respe**C**t

friends**H**ip & family

A Place of Enthusiastic Learning and Achievement!

Poverty Proofing

This information is intended to help build a shared understanding of the impact poverty can have on some of our children and young people and their families within our Kilsyth Cluster and local community.

Within our schools and nurseries there is a shared understanding the impact poverty can have on some families and children and young people.

Across all of North Lanarkshire it's estimated that 24.9% (17, 922) of children and young people live in poverty. Low and insufficient household income can mean that some pupils quite simply don't have what they need to grow and prosper in the same way as others do. The recent COVID-19 pandemic will undoubtedly have a negative impact on families across the authority.

We are therefore **committed** to tackling poverty and ensuring equity within our schools and nurseries for all of our pupils.

Pupils attending schools within the Kilsyth Cluster were asked what their understanding and experience of poverty was which has helped shaped school and nursery policy.

Pupils all identified the following areas that families might need help and support with:

- School/nursery uniform (including PE)
- Equipment/resources
- Trips/excursions and after school clubs
- Fundraising, themed days
- Homework and ICT
- Food poverty
- Period poverty

Embedded within the curriculum is Health and Wellbeing. All staff should continually consider the indicators in line with GIRFEC in order to help ensure any issues such as food poverty is identified and dealt with at the earliest point.

Cost of the School and Nursery Day



We are committed to ensuring that every child at Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery has equal access to all opportunities available to them, regardless of financial position.

As a school and nursery, we looked at reducing the cost of the school and nursery day to ensure that all of our children have access to resources and activities which cost money. More than 1 in 5 children across Scotland are officially recognised as living in poverty. In addition, 7 out of 10 children living in relative poverty are in working households.

It is important that every family is aware of the support that our school can provide and therefore there is a section of the website which provides details of some of the supports available.

In addition, our school receives Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to help close the poverty related attainment gap. Our PEF allocation is based on the number of pupils claiming free school meals and clothing grants - £1,200 per pupil. We encourage parents/carers to claim the benefits available to them as this will also ensure the school receives the correct amount of PEF, enabling us to provide additional support to benefit individual pupils.

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class Poverty Proofing Policy

School & Nursery Clothing



- We will provide a paper version of North Lanarkshire Council's Clothing Grant application forms at enrolment and for any new pupils.
- An electronic link to the Clothing Grant application forms will be included on the website. Clothing grants are also available for families with low income and should be actively applied for www.northlan.gov.uk
- Office staff will offer to help anyone who may need assistance completing the forms.
- We will positively promote the wearing of the school uniform to create a school identity. In addition, this helps prevent 'competition' among pupils for the latest designer clothing/footwear.
- The Outdoor Clothing Grant is used in nursery to purchase a number of outdoor waterproof & windproof ski suits to support children who do not have their own suit, to access daily outdoor play opportunities, in all weathers.
- The only school branded item we will ask pupils to wear in the school is a sweatshirt/ cardigan/ jumper, which can be purchased with our logo from School Trends. Although other branded uniform items are also available from this supplier, we have a flexible approach so that parents/carers can look at a range of suppliers.
- We encourage parents/carers to recycle school uniforms and donate these to the school. This enables parents/carers to take items of clothing for their children. The PE kit, including gym shoes, are also part of our 'Pre-loved' range.
- Parents/carers will be asked at the end of the year if they have any items that they would like to donate to the 'Pre-Loved' range. In addition, any items in lost property for longer than 3 months will be added to the stock.
- If a child regularly comes to school without uniform, the school can provide uniform items and PE kit.
- There is also a great resource available to anyone who lives in the area. The 'Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Baby Bank provides general clothing, from birth to teenagers, baby and toddler essentials as well as school uniforms including coats, essentials such as underwear (all new). Referrals are made from professionals

including; school/nursery staff, health visitor, social worker, charities. Further information can be found at: www.cumbernauldkilsythcare.org.uk

Food and Snacks



- A copy of North Lanarkshire's Free School Meals application form will be provided at enrolment and for any new pupils.
- An electronic link to Free School Meal application forms will be included on the website.
- Office staff will offer to help anyone who may need assistance completing the forms.
- Fruit/toast will be available for any child who complains of feeling hungry or may not have a snack.
- If a child's parent/carer has not pre-paid for their school lunch and they do not have a packed lunch, the school will provide soup/sandwich/water.
- If a child regularly does not have lunch paid for the school will contact the family to discuss options available.
- The school will provide cups or water bottles for children who may not be able to bring one from home.
- It can be difficult for parents/carers to meet the cost of nursery snack and if this is the case, parents/carers know they can speak in confidence to one of the nursery team to support with this.
- In all of our schools, a Breakfast Club is available as well as lunches for all pupils who qualify for free school meals. Families need to apply and a form can be collected from school or via the website: www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk
- A healthy snack, prepared in line with the "Setting the Table" Guidance, is available to all nursery children throughout the session.
- All nursery children can access whole milk/water throughout the session.
- All nursery children are provided with a nutritious hot meal served to them as their lunch, throughout the nursery session
- The nursery has a donation box for the Kilsyth Food bank available throughout the year. A list of specific items required by the foodbank is provided at Easter and Christmas. Local families can be referred to the food bank by their health visitor. The nursery will

provide a 'pantry' which parents/carers can access without completing an application for additional support.

In the Classroom



- Stationery and other essentials will be provided in the classroom for pupils.

Out of School Learning



- Identified pupils will be provided with a laptop/tablet/internet connection from NLC to support remote and digital learning. Staff will bear in mind, when setting out of school tasks/homework, pupils' access to devices and internet connection.
- All staff will bear in mind, when setting out of school tasks, that not all children have access to resources such as arts and crafts, folders etc. Staff should ensure that all children are given or offered the resources they need to complete a task.
- To encourage and promote reading, all children have access to library books in their classroom for personalisation and choice.



Charity, Special Events and Fundraising

It has been noted that attendance rates on 'fun themed days' often dips from pupils from low income families. We're becoming more thoughtful about this in school and through building a shared awareness of the impact of poverty, the hope is that pupils (and staff) will be more sensitive to others not in the same position as themselves.

- 'Dress-down' days will be agreed with the Parent Council as part of the school calendar and 'themes' will be carefully considered to ensure this does not incur a cost parents/carers cannot afford. These days will be a donation only and no-one will be excluded from taking part if they do not have a donation.
- The school and nursery will continue to encourage families to donate 'dress-up' outfits/costumes for use on fun days (e.g.) Halloween. These items can be borrowed, allowing all pupils to take part in activities.
- Events will be discussed with the Parent Council and PTA, spreading out costs across the school year to avoid asking for money too often.
- Pupils will be discouraged from bringing in electronic devices for a topic, show and tell etc. as they may lead to competition and stigmatisation.

Period Poverty



- All pupils have access to free sanitary products, which can be taken home also. The products are available in every toilet area in school and pupils should be encouraged to take products home to use over weekends/holidays if required.



School, Trips & Activities



- Where a trip or activity (apart from residential trips) does have a cost attached we will ask parents for the appropriate amount based on individual circumstances. Any shortfall for families identified will be met through the School Fund (PTA) or PEF fund.
- Parents/carers will be given as much notice of activities and trips to allow time to save and pay.
- We will use ipay to pay for trips or events over £1.00 whenever possible to ensure privacy.
- We will ask the PTA for financial support in some instances e.g. trips / outings.
- On day trips, lunches are provided for those who require and have free meal provision.
- For the residential trips, parents/carers will be given an opportunity to pay in agreed instalments to spread the cost. In addition, we will look at any requests for financial help on an individual basis and negotiate a payment plan with families who may be facing financial difficulties in order to pay for an event/activity.
- We will not read out names of children who have not paid. If necessary the office staff will communicate directly with parents.

After School Clubs

- All after school clubs are free. Fees for buses and coaches are supported by the PTA to avoid all costs for competitions.
- All football strips, athletics outfits and netball strips are provided by the school.
- Contact is made with parents/carers at the start of the school year to record clubs children attend outside of school. This is issued with the Annual Data Check and Safe Use

of the Internet forms. Information is recorded on the school database. Children who do not attend after school clubs within the school or community are supported and encouraged to participate in at least one club throughout the year.

Information for Families

Uniform Swap Shop



We have a school uniform swap shop which can be accessed by contacting the school office. The nursery take nursery uniform donations in from parents. This can be issued to any child requiring uniform.

Families are encouraged to donate clothing children have grown out of and be used by other families within the school.

The clothes that are within the 'Swap Shop' are available for any family to make good use of.

School Fund/PEF

- The school fund, supported by the PTA, can be accessed by parents/carers who require a bit of financial assistance to support trips or equipment for school. The application for this support is simple and confidential. To apply for financial support please use the application on the school website and send to the school office or to the member of the Senior Leadership and Management Team responsible for your child's year group:

Ruth McCarthy (HT) (P4-7) - ht@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

Louise Chambers (DHT) (P1-2) - lchambers@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

Deborah Convery (PT) (P3-4) - deborahconvery@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

John Paterson (APT) (P3-4) - johnpaterson@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

Kelly Baker (PL) (Nursery) - kellybaker@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

Sandra Merrick (PL) (Nursery) - sandramerrick@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant



- North Lanarkshire Council can provide children with free school meals and financial assistance towards the purchase of school clothing. The current amount payable per qualifying child is £100.00.
- All children in Primary 1, 2 and 3 are automatically eligible for a free school meal. For other children to qualify, certain criteria must be met. For further information and to apply for support, please contact the Named Person - ht@balmalloch.n-lanark.sch.uk.

Maximising Income



The Financial Inclusion Team can also offer advice, representation and advocacy in a number of fields to families as well as professionals supporting families including maximising benefits as well as debt and money advice.

- disability living allowance
- attendance allowance
- tax credits
- employment and support allowance
- income support
- jobseeker's allowance
- carer's allowance
- child benefit
- universal credit
- personal independence payment

The **Financial Inclusion Team** also offer debt and money advice.

- Rent/mortgage arrears
- Council tax arrears
- Pay day loans
- Personal loans
- Store/credit cards
- Gas/electricity arrear
- Budgeting guidance

School staff/other professionals such as CLD, health visitor etc. can make a request to the Financial Inclusion Team by email: FIT@northlan.gov.uk or if a parent or carer wishes to self-refer they can call 01698 332551.

The Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Citizen Advice Bureau can also provide advice and also help signpost services and can be contacted on 01236 723201 or online: bureau@cumbernauldcab.casonline.org.uk

We sincerely hope that within our Cluster of schools no family, child or young person feels alone worrying about the impact of poverty. We are working hard with our school staff to raise awareness of the issues fore-mentioned and providing training and support.

If you are concerned about any aspect of whether about you or someone else, please get in touch with the Head Teacher/ Named Person within your local school.

R. McCarthy

Head Teacher

Policy Date: 08.03.21

Review Date: March, 22