



Calderhead High School



Cost of the School Day Policy

2025-2026



Aims of the Policy

- To provide information on the current levels of child poverty nationally and within NLC.
- To highlight the practical support on offer in the school so that all pupils are aware of the assistance that is available to them.
- To set out a whole-school approach to the reduction of the cost of the school day for our pupils.
- To signpost advice and help services to families and young people living in poverty.



Advice for Staff

In tackling barriers faced by children living in poverty, we must strive as a school to reduce any additional costs. Faculties should ensure that:

- All materials required for classwork are provided to pupils including jotters, paper, pencils and books.
- Homework tasks should not require pupils to spend money (e.g. if a pupil is asked to build a model, materials should be provided by the department). Lunch clubs are available for internet access should it be needed.
- When trips are planned, efforts should be made to keep costs low. Pupils should be offered a payment plan for trips costing large sums of money.
- If there is a concern about a pupil potentially being disadvantaged by poverty, pupil support staff should be informed immediately.

UNCRC (Article 24) 'Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment, so that they will stay healthy'.

UNCRC (Article 27) ‘Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs’.

What is child poverty?

The circumstances children experience while they are growing up largely reflect the level of income and resources that are available to their parents/carers. Poverty is understood as ‘not having enough’ to afford the basic necessities children need for a decent standard of living. In Scotland, a child is understood to be living in poverty when they are living in a household that earns less than 60% of the average income (average income typically £25,200). **Across Scotland, almost one in four children are officially recognised as living in poverty.**

Children growing up in poverty **often lack basic necessities such as adequate food and a health diet; clean or appropriate clothing such as winter coat and well-fitting shoes and a warm home.** They are also more likely to regularly miss out on a number of items or activities essential to a good standard of living and more likely to miss school days due to not having enough money to participate in activities. This can also put them at risk of missing out on opportunities at school and feeling different, excluded and unhappy!

NLC Pledge on Poverty

‘Towards a Fairer North Lanarkshire’



Tackling Poverty Strategy 2023 – 2026

Aim: a concerted commitment across the Community Planning Partnership to drive inclusive growth and achieve prosperity for the people and communities of North Lanarkshire.

‘Poverty and inequality are significant features of Scottish society, in North Lanarkshire 15% of our population are income deprived, with nearly one in four of our children living in poverty’

The approach within North Lanarkshire is underpinned by The Fairer Scotland Duty to reduce the inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage. To deliver this shared ambition of inclusive growth and prosperity, work will focus on five complementary priorities:

1. Improve economic opportunities and outcomes
2. Support all children and young people to realise their full potential
3. Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities
4. Enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities
5. Improve North Lanarkshire’s resource base

Pupil Equity Funding



To work towards closing the poverty related attainment gap, we are fully committed to breaking down all barriers to learning and to promote health and wellbeing for all. Inclusion is not just a work sheet or proximity to other children, it is an ethos, a philosophy, a way of thinking that informs and influences our teaching practice every day. Understanding the external and internal factors that influence learners beyond the classroom – additional needs, individual physical, mental and emotional challenges, socio economic factors and cultural heritage - allows us to build a holistic view of every child. In Calderhead, differences are celebrated and understood; we work to ensure equity, respect and inclusion for all through the many interventions and programmes we run.

The 6 founding principles of inclusion that inform our teaching practice:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally – no matter what stage you are at in your learning you are included.
2. Importance of nurture in developing wellbeing – when we are cared for, happy and secure we will learn.
3. All behaviour is communication – our teachers always listen to what we have to say and support us when we are overwhelmed.
4. The classroom is a safe space – always safe and secure.
5. Language is a vital means of communication – we can learn to be confident speakers so that we can express ourselves.
6. The importance of transition in our lives – we will be supported at every step.



What is Calderhead High School doing to tackle child poverty and increase equity?

Little Shop of Happiness

- We have created a uniform recycling bank to help all families access uniform and reduce waste
- Young people can also access pre-loved clothing
- We provide free sanitary/hygiene products for all pupils

Health and Nutrition

- Breakfast club is on every day to offer a nutritious breakfast to all pupils and this is supported by Greggs
- This year we are creating a foodbank for young people to access and this winter we will deliver food parcels to our families who require support

S1 PE T-Shirts

- PE shirts can be provided in House colours

Technical and Home Economics Money

- The cost of materials and food supplies in technical and Home Economics are covered for all students
- We assist parents to apply for NLC financial inclusion grants/ free school meals/ benefits/ clothing grants

Experiences and attainment

- Clubs are available every day to all pupils.
- School trips are subsidised for identified pupils.
- We provide access to ICT
- All classrooms are equipped with essential learning materials specific to each subject to reduce cost.

Financial support

- We assist parents to apply for NLC financial inclusion grants/ free school meals/ benefits/ clothing grants

Raising Awareness

- Creating a Cost of School Day section on the school website with relevant information and links.
- Introducing poverty- related education into PSE lessons.

Enhanced Transition

- Transition programme to include pupils from families identified as having financial difficulties.

Help and Support

In the first instance please contact your child's Pupil Support Teacher should you run into any school-related financial problems. All Pupil Support Teachers can be contacted via the school office on 01501 826701

The following information may also be of use:

Financial Support

- DWP – Universal Credit Helpline – 0800 3285644
- NLC Financial Inclusion Team – 01698 332551 or fit@northlan.gov.uk
- Citizens Advice Bureau (Motherwell & Wishaw) – 01698 265349
- Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) - SWF@northlan.gov.uk or 0300 555 0405

Food and Clothing Support

- Information about clothing grants/free school meals – fsm@northlan.gov.uk
- R:evolve Recycle Clothing Bank – 0141 6415169 or www.revolve-recycle.co.uk
- Calderhead High School Clothing Bank – 01501 826701
- Calderhead High School Food Bank – 01501 826701
- Paul's Parcels – 07922 426585
- Shotts Food bank Foodbank – Salvation Army – 01501 825 532
- Food Co-ops – www.locator.org.uk
- Best Start Food Payments – 0800 182 2222 or www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant

Housing Support

- Shelter Scotland Housing Advice – 0808 800 4444

Alternatively, contact our Tackling Poverty team who can help you to make sure you are getting all the support available to you. Email TPteam@northlan.gov.uk or call 01698 332551.

More advice can also be found on the school website in *the Cost of the School Day*

If you do not have access to the Internet or telephone, please visit your local library, community centre or Citizens Advice Bureau and make use of their free facilities.

How you can help us

Donate items of uniform, PE kit, hygiene products and study materials that you no longer need to allow us to support others. Please drop them off at the school office.



**NLC FREE SCHOOL MEAL &
CLOTHING GRANT FORM**



NLC TACKLING POVERTY TEAM



**NLC FUSION APP - PAY FOR
SCHOOL MEALS**



**CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICE**



MENTAL WELLBEING COMMUNITY



YOUNG SCOT CARD