

# Troon Primary School and EYC

## The Cost of the School Day Position Statement



### Rationale

Poverty-proofing the school day is considering how policies and practices can impact on children and young people on a low income and how this affects their experience of the school day. Solutions may not necessarily cost money but may, for example, require schools or education services to do something differently.

In every school in Scotland, more and more parents, carers and families are struggling on low incomes which can impact on our children's opportunities to participate, learn and thrive. At Troon Primary School and Early Years Centre, we recognise that we must enable all of our children to take full and equal advantage of opportunities and consider how to reduce the extra costs for parents and carers.

We embed the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC) principles throughout our practice and we aim to use effective approaches to get it right for every family. According to Scottish Government figures, one in four Scottish children live in poverty therefore it is important that we strive to remove financial barriers to education and to support families as much as we can within our community.

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

As a school, we will ensure that all procedures we implement and any activities/events that we plan are fully accessible to all children. We will attempt to minimise the hidden cost of the school day through the approaches outlined in our position statement.

### Aims

- To ensure all children and young people have access to meaningful learning experiences without restriction from poverty
- To support children, young people and families to access supports and financial advice
- To offer a collective and ongoing commitment to equity

## **Uniform**

We believe encouraging pupils to wear school uniform helps them to feel more included and recognisable as part of our school community. However, we are aware of the unavoidable costs associated with uniform and have identified the following ways to help:

- Making pre-loved items of school uniform available with the support of our Parent Council and wider parent body
- Including unbranded items of school uniform in our uniform guidance
- Sharing the procedures for applying for clothing grants via our newsletter and website

## **Transport and Trips**

The vast majority of our children live within our catchment area and travel to and from school by foot, car or authority funded transport. We will additionally help to cut costs by the following means:

- Supporting families with SAC funded transport where appropriate
- Where possible, 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 donations and school funds to further reduce the cost of school trips
- Where transport for sporting outings requires a cost, considering ways to offset this cost for children and families

## **After-School Clubs**

- Offering a broad range of wider achievement opportunities for our children, working in partnership with Active Schools, school staff and volunteers
- Not charging pupils for participation in after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities

## **Non-Uniform Days**

- We have consciously reduced the number of dress down days and fundraising activities we hold in the school with 'donations' and gifts of food, etc., being taken for charitable collections as opposed to a set cost to reduce the burden on families
- Making contributions to non-uniform days a suggested donation only
- Working with the parents to organise 'swap shops' for Hallowe'en costumes and Christmas jumpers etc.

## Resources

- We focus on providing resources to ensure that no students are disadvantaged by a lack of appropriate resources during the school day
- Sanitary products are available for use in school and may also be taken home, if required

## Lunch/Snack

- Ensuring parents/carers are aware of the eligibility of free-school meal provision
- Providing packed lunches for trips/outings for those children eligible for FSM
- We operate a cashless catering system, which ensures that there is no stigma involved as all students use the same system.

## Gifts

At the end of term and at Christmas, there is no expectation to buy class teachers gifts.

If parents wish to provide gifts, an alternative to buying gifts would be to donate to a local charity.

Staff do not need to buy class gifts but instead can use a whole class approach of a movie/treat afternoon.

## Raising awareness of the Hidden Cost of the School Day

Where any family is finding things difficult, we would encourage them to speak with a member of SLT in complete confidence. As a school, we are keen and willing to assist where we possibly can. We encourage all parents to make use of the online payment system which provides the facility for parents to make payments for any school activities electronically. This takes away the need for parents to have cash to hand.

Should you require further information at this stage, or would like to have a more in-depth chat about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



# Success Through Effort

Updated March 2026

Next review March 2027