

## **Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

### **Hallside School, South Lanarkshire Council**

At **Hallside Primary School** we have recognised the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. As a school we have tried to offer as much as possible free of charge or for little money. We examine the School Day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home learning.

**Uniform** – our current uniform is available from any of the High Street shops if families opt for the uniform without the school badge. They can also purchase from ‘Blossoms’ which is in East Kilbride. This supplies the entire range of uniform but they will also sew on school badges onto High Street bought uniforms. ‘Blossoms’ are reasonably priced and they offer discount cards. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo-shirts. ‘Blossoms’ is a new supplier and parents can buy in the shop or on-line. The company also attended our Parents’ evening and P1 Induction to allow parents to see the range and place orders. In August we also offer an option for our P6 and P7 girls and boys to purchase a full football strip for the session for £12. This strip is worn at football practice and at league games. This takes pressure off parents competing with children attending football practice in more expensive football strips.

**Travel** – the majority of our children travel to school by walking or by car as our school catchment for all is within walking distance.

**Learning** – children at **Hallside Primary School** do not need to pay for any core learning activity or for homework activities. Pens and pencils are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. All after school clubs are also free with no cost for equipment or transport to events.

### **Friendships**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related or any form of bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence.

### **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by curriculum projects and by an end of term year group trip. The average cost of trips for pupils can vary depending on the venue and distance from the school. We try to reduce the cost by choosing venues that are free, National Trust or of reasonable cost. We **do not have** a policy for families with more than one child other than our P7 Residential where twins get a discount and the school fundraise to pay for the group transport for this trip.

### **Eating at school**

Last school year we had 9.4% of pupils who were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we no longer give out tickets, instead the dinner ladies have a list of names and at the till those children are not asked for money. Not all pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals actually take up their entitlement, as a number prefer to have a packed lunch. In order to increase that percentage we would discuss uptake with the dining staff and assess if some families required contact from the school to encourage them to take the Free School Meal.

### **Fun Events**

**Hallside Primary School** recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families but all children are allowed to take part as we sensitively include those who have not paid. We **would continue to** review attendance and participation in these events in order to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. As with school trips, our Fun Events are planned by school calendar events and opportunities that occur over a session. Fun Days etc tend to be £1. If it's a more expensive event eg Pantomime then we offer family discounts for families of over 2 children. Every session there is some form of fund-raising event in school but it is up to parents if they wish to participate.

### **School Clubs**

At **Hallside Primary School** we have the following clubs; girl and boys football for P6 and P7, netball for P6 and P7, craft club from P5-7, homework club for P1-5, Drama club for P6s and P7s, Chess Club for P5-7, Street Dance for one term for P2s, Athletics for P6-7. There is no cost to pupils to take part.

### **Home Learning**

There is no cost for Home Learning/homework at Hallside Primary.

We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance and will not be 'fixed' by any one action. In our Improvement Plan for 2019/20 we will be focusing on

- End of term trips

This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day.