

At Bent Primary, we recognise the need to reduce the cost of the school day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty.

We have outlined our approaches to reducing the cost of the school day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home learning.

THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Currently our trips are planned by the class teacher and these excursions help support Interdisciplinary Learning which takes place across the school year. We strive to ensure that the average cost of any outing/ trip for pupils is no more than £5, however in the majority of

cases these experiences are free. We currently do not promote fundraising events for charities and instead raise awareness of these organisations through the curriculum fundraising events and through the generous support from our Parent Council. We also apply for grants through Historic Scotland to support the cost of school trips. External funding is used where possible and we are proactive in making bids to local development trusts and grant awards.

Our children have the opportunity attend various events throughout the school year which are fully funded by the school e.g., Football Tournaments, Netball Festivals, Cross Country, Dance Festival, Forest Schools and Transition Activities where the cost and the transport for all of these activities are provided free of charge.

We have an inclusive ethos and all pupils are given opportunities to express themselves in a safe and happy environment.

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We explicitly teach young people about poverty related issues as part of an anti-bullying programme and PSE. Linked to this we gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and involve them in decision making such as through our PEF Participatory Budgeting initiative which gives stakeholders the opportunity to decide on where 5% of funding is utilised (This equates to around £2,200 in academic year 2023-24).



Our current uniform consists of:

Jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt – navy blue;
Trousers, skirt or pinafore – grey or navy,
polo shirt, shirt or blouse – blue or white.

A school tie available from AJL Work & Leisure Wear.

Families can purchase uniforms with our logo from AJL Work and Leisure Wear, 35 St. Leonard St, Lanark. However, we **do not** insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts. Uniform items can be purchased from any retailer.

We also have a uniform/clothing recycle scheme available in school, which is accessible to all families. During the colder periods we are able to offer recycled winter jackets and a swop rail.

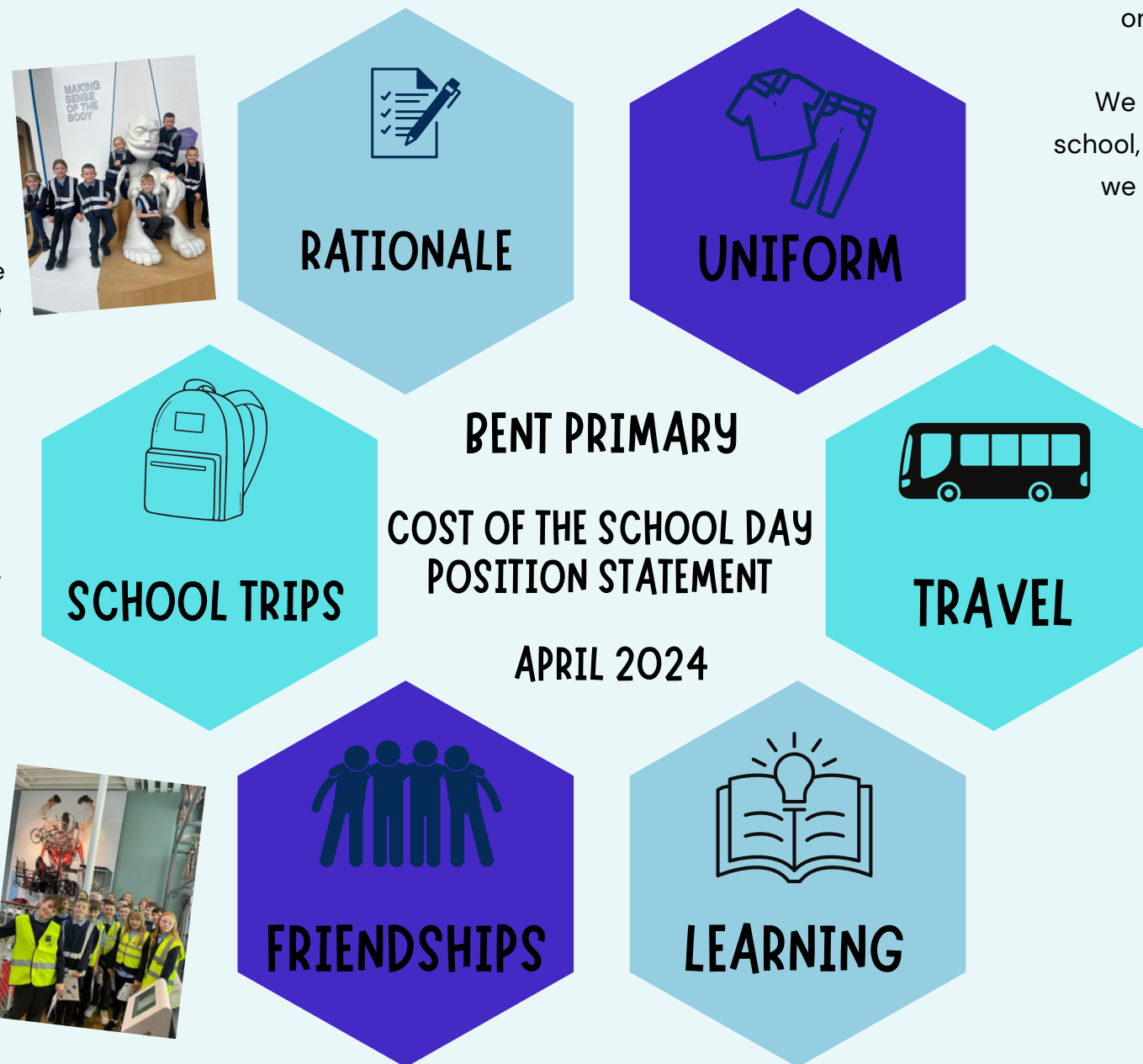


All of our children travel to school by bus, taxi or car due to footpaths in areas which exceed 30 miles per hour. Bus and taxi transport is provided by the Local Authority due to the rural location of the school.

We are aware that this could result in many children not being able to attend after school clubs which normally take place between 3pm and 4pm due to restrictions on our gym hall being used for lunch. To alleviate this we are proactive liaising with families to promote car sharing arrangements.



Families at Bent Primary do not need to pay for any core learning activity. All necessary resources are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. We currently have an initiative for young people to borrow ICT equipment if they need it for homework or to enhance learning (e.g. a Kindle, Chromebook or iPad). Many of our families also benefited from Chromebooks and wifi provided by the Scottish Government during COVID19 school closures. Families continue to benefit from these devices and we are proactive in sourcing additional devices through grants and community fundraising.



EATING AT SCHOOL



We have 45% of pupils who are in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we try to reduce this by not giving children coloured bands to show free school meal entitlement. We estimate that approximately 100% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement.

PERIOD POVERTY



Within the school, there are sanitary products for pupils to access if required to tackle period poverty. Free products are made available at all times as well as focused lessons for senior girls during the RSHP sessions and if/when required. Through our school app, we have communicated with families that there are free products in school for any adults to access.

HOME LEARNING



We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible. Pupils can access equipment and resources in school to assist with the completion of any homework task. With agreement, equipment can be borrowed. If required, support can be given to complete tasks during the school day.

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.

SCHOOL CLUBS



At Bent Primary, we offer a variety of extra-curricular clubs throughout the school year. If an outside trainer leads the extra-curricular activity, there may be a small cost. These costs are kept to a minimum and subsidised by the school. For children who receive Free School Meals, the cost can be subsidised further to ensure everyone can attend. Our clubs do not require specific equipment to participate.

THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY AT BENT PRIMARY SCHOOL



FUN EVENTS



Bent Primary recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We currently look carefully at 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 carefully planned in line with our school calendar. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it. The school community makes sure that that all children are included in such events. We currently fund raise through backpacking organised by our Parent Council, supporting charities such as Red Nose Day or Children in Need. We also held a fundraising event through the Commonwealth Legacy of Sport in the community.