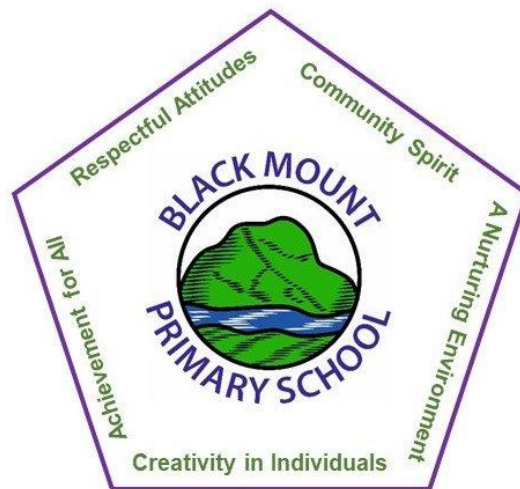


Black Mount Primary School Cost of the School Day Policy

Revised September 2024



Background: Poverty' is when your resources are not enough to meet your basic needs. Almost one in four (240,000) of Scotland's children are living in poverty and 70% of those children in poverty live in a household where someone works. In South Lanarkshire Council our vision is that all children and young people will receive the same opportunities in their educational journey regardless of their social-economic background.

Black Mount Primary Vision: At Black Mount Primary School, we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our families and aim to employ a range of simple and practical measures which can help to minimise costs, reduce stigma and ensure that our pupils have equal access to opportunities within school and across the wider community. We do this by:

- Removing barriers to participation and learning for children and young people from low-income households.
- Minimising income stigma.
- Reducing pressures which school costs place on family incomes.
- Supporting families to access entitlements and maximising their incomes.
- Using Pupil Equity Funding and/or Participatory Budgeting to remove financial barriers.
- Embedding Cost of the School Day in school improvement planning.

Learning

Pupils at Black Mount Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Pens and pencils are provided and pupils do not need to bring their own equipment to school.

When pupils start at Black Mount Primary School, they are provided with a bookbag and PE bag that lasts for the duration of their time at the school. All pupils are encouraged to use their bookbag as a schoolbag to reduce peer and financial pressures.



Learning at home

All additional resources that are required for learning at home will be sent home. Learners can borrow additional equipment if they need it to complete homework (e.g. craft equipment, white board and pen, etc).

Uniform

Our current uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan, grey polo shirt, black or grey trousers/skirt. Families can purchase branded uniform items from ALJ Workwear in Lanark. <https://www.aljonline.co.uk/shop-by-school/blackmount-primary-school>

We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts and encourage parents to look at more affordable options in supermarkets and other clothing retailers. We have a uniform bank of 'pre-loved' items which can be accessed at any time.

The pre-loved rail is also discretely displayed at events within the school and this allows families to pick up items that they may need.



We ask that all items of school clothes are clearly labelled so that lost garments can be returned. Names can be written with a felt tip pen.

Our pre-loved rail also includes items of clothing such as costumes/party clothes which often have limited wear and can be accessed in the same way as uniform items.

Parents/Carers may be entitled to access a clothing grant to help with school uniform costs. Information about entitlement to clothing grants and how to apply is available on the South Lanarkshire Council website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Eating at School

Lunches

Free school meal entitlement is now allocated automatically if a family has qualifying benefits. The introduction of ParentPay for families to pay for lunches removes any stigma previously associated with free school meals as there is no cash used in school.

Lack of food and poor nutrition are realities for some children in Scotland. Food costs can be significant and receiving Free School Meals can lessen the financial burden on low-income families. However, not every family entitled to free meals applies for them, and not every child receiving free meals takes them. We would encourage any parent presently on low income to investigate the criteria which free school meals can be provided. Information about entitlement to free school meals and how to apply is available on the South Lanarkshire Council website:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals

School lunches are free for all pupils in Primary 1 - 5.



Pupil Snacks

At Black Mount Primary, pupils are provided with a snack at breaktime. This reduces the need for parents to provide their child with a snack each day.

School Clubs

Around half of our pupils travel to school using transport provided by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after-school clubs, and, therefore we plan clubs at lunchtime as well as after-school. If a pupils' attendance at an afterschool club is hindered due to financial constraints, parents are encouraged to contact the school and we will work together to find a solution which enables all pupils to participate.

Fun events

Special days, events and activities are a fun part of school life and often raise valuable funds to subsidise trips, provide additional resources or include a donation to charity. However, such events can put financial pressures on families.

Participation in these events is always voluntary and pupils will never be questioned about their decision to participate or not. There will always be no charge activities at any school fayres and if donations are collected in school it will be done so discreetly. We are pro-active in looking for additional funding/grants to reduce any costs with fun events.

School Trips

Educational trips enhance teaching and learning and are an important part of school life. We try to meet the cost of trips through the support of our Parent Council, local grants and Pupil Equity Funding. However, if we need to ask for a donation towards the cost of an activity or trip we will subsidise or cover costs for those that need financial support. We also aim to give families as much notice as possible if there is a cost involved. Residential experiences can be paid in instalments over a longer period of time.

If there is an out of school activity being organised and it would put financial constraints on your family, please contact the school, in confidence, to seek support and we can identify ways in which we can help.



Help is at hand:

South Lanarkshire's Community Wellbeing Helpline

They can provide free and confidential advice on a range of matters such as:

- Identifying benefits which you may be entitled to, including Free School Meals, Clothing Grants, Education Maintenance Allowance and other welfare benefits
- Assisting in crisis situations such as having no money for food, gas or electricity

- Arranging referrals to other services including Money Matters Advice Services for benefit and debt advice and assistance.

The benefits system can be so complex with many people unaware of the benefits that may be available to them.

Please call the Helpline team on 0303 123 1009 if you want to know more about the services offered.

Scottish Child Payments



Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £25 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful.

More information can be found by clicking the link below.

Period Poverty

Statistically 1 in 7 girls have to borrow sanitary wear because of affordability issues, 12% have to improvise sanitary wear and 1 in 5 choose cheaper, less suitable products because of cost. At Black Mount Primary School a range of suitable, high quality sanitary products are available for any pupil requiring access to these.

All pupils know that appropriate sanitary wear is available free of charge to collect in the toilets to reduce embarrassment/ stigma.

Sanitary products can also be given home for over school holidays and pupils are encouraged to take what they may need.

The Law ensuring free of charge period products in certain settings has come into force. Community halls, leisure centres, libraries, foodbanks and certain NHS premises are just some of the locations where products are obtainable free of charge.

Locations across the area can be found by downloading the Pickupmyperiod App (free on Apple and Google)

