

KIRKTONHOLME PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS



Cost of the School Day Policy

Currently, almost one in four children in Scotland lives in poverty, with 65% of these cases occurring in a household with at least one working parent/carer. New targets aim to reduce this to less than 10% by 2030.

Relative poverty is defined as: "The condition in which people lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in the society in which they live."

In real terms, a family is considered to be living in relative poverty if their household income is below 60% of the average UK household income (currently £28,400). This means that just under 14,000 children in South Lanarkshire (22%) are living in poverty and this is increasing. The following groups are more likely to be affected by poverty than others: single parents, households where someone has a disability, families with more than three children, minority ethnic families, families where the youngest child is under one and mothers aged under 25. The Scottish Government introduced the Child Poverty Act in 2017. This legislation introduces statutory targets for reducing child poverty. Cost of the School Day is an initiative, which aims to raise awareness within communities and schools of the financial implications and burdens education can create.



Our Vision & Values

We believe that

Learning is the HEART of Kirktonholme



Happiness Excellence Achievement Respect Teamwork

The Cost of the School Day and addressing the poverty related attainment gap is connected to our values of Happiness and Teamwork. We want our learners and their families to feel included and attached to our school community.

At Kirktonholme Primary School we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all of our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty.

We have examined the School Day through the following headings;

Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home Learning.

Our parent survey identified that the top three costs are uniforms, lunches and playtime snacks. In response to this survey we have included additional actions to help families. An easy reference to our supports is included at the end of this policy.



Reviewed December 2023

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Uniform



Our current uniform is grey trousers/skirt, blue shirts/polo shirts and royal blue jumpers for P1-P5 and navy blue jumpers for P6 & P7. Families can purchase uniforms from Blossoms or Academy Uniforms. Ties are gifted to all new pupils from our Parent Council. Additional school ties are available from the school office. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. We encourage learners to wear shirts and ties.

A uniform swap shop has been created in our main entrance and we actively promote the benefits of swapping uniforms. Uniforms are provided directly to families in need. We also provide uniforms to the Village Centre.

Travel

Almost all children live within walking distance to our school and transport is not required. However, children under the age of 22 are entitled to free bus travel. This can be applied for at <https://www.mygov.scot/under-22s-bus-pass>

Learning



Children at Kirktonholme Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Pens and pencils are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. Annual contact is made with all families entitled to free school meals and any resources required have been provided. Provision is made if any learner is identified or requests resources. Young people in receipt of Free School Meals do not need to pay for core curriculum – Art, Technology, Home Economics and fees are reduced for other children as much as possible. Within Kirktonholme Primary, this encompasses swimming.

Friendships



We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. Children are made aware of poverty related issues through our health and wellbeing and assembly programme. We teach young people about poverty related issues as part of an anti-bullying programme. We already have gathered the views of our young people and Parent Council on the Cost of the School Day and involve them in decision making around this.

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School Trips



Pre Covid our trips were planned each year by class teachers. The average cost of trips for pupils can vary dependent upon the activity. We reduce the overall cost and subsidise it through our school fund.

Children in receipt of free school meals have all trips funded for them.

We try to reduce the cost for everyone by class enterprise activities or school funds. Post Covid, our community has elected to spend the Participatory Budget to fund school trips for all.

In the event of a residential trip, the cost of this trip will be spread over the whole year to assist the financial management for families. Families in receipt of free school meals will have additional support provided to help with the costs of clothing. This support is provided by our Pupil Equity Fund.

As part of our Participatory Budgeting consultation in October 2022, our community voted on allocating the money to school trips. In 2022/2023 and 2023/24 each class will benefit from a free school trip. Destinations are agreed through consultation with pupils, Pupil Council and staff.

Eating at school – Lunches and Snacks



During 2023/24 we had 15% 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 reduce this by using a cashless system and therefore keeping pupils names confidential. We estimate that approximately 80% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. We encourage our families to make use of this free provision.

We encourage all families to provide a piece of fruit for a snack. This is a cheaper and healthier option than crisps and chocolate and should minimise the costs for families.

Breakfast Club is available daily from 8.15-8.45. Free breakfast is served and this service is available to all families in need.

Fun Events

Kirktonholme Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. As part of our school tracking systems, we 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. If young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by providing any support that is required. We utilise our Pupil Equity Funding to ensure

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participation. We currently fundraise by providing concerts and participating in enterprise activities and understand that not all families are able to contribute so we also are looking into providing other opportunities such as bag packing. For school events, all families who are entitled to free school meals receive two free tickets. These events include Discos, Nativities, Shows, Concerts etc. We also reduce the cost if families have more than two children.

School Clubs



At Kirktonholme School we have a variety of clubs including Dance Academy, football, netball, athletics, homework, coding and Good Grub Club. We do not charge for young people to take part. If clubs require specific equipment eg badminton racquet, football boots, we will provide the necessary equipment to any families who may require it. We actively encourage membership of these clubs to families in receipt of free school meals and priority access is given to them.

Home Learning



We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by providing a homework club. We ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and any pupil who does not complete homework does not receive a sanction. Teachers track homework and assistance, support and understanding is provide for those who find this challenging.

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 2021/22 we focused on

- Raising awareness of the Cost of the School day with our families
- Supporting families in participating in after school/ extra curricular clubs.
- Promoting the wearing of a shirt and tie to minimise uniform costs
- Creating a school policy on Cost of the School Day

Communication

To ensure our families are aware of the different supports in place we communicate to them through

- Dedicated Cost of the School Day section in our monthly newsletter
- All information hosted in a dedicated page on our school website
- School app messages issued when new information is available
- Individual phone calls to families in receipt of free school meals are used to provide support, gather information and better understand each family's needs

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What do you do if you need help and support?

In the first instance, please contact our DHTs if you should you run into any school-related financial problems. We can be contacted via the school office on 01355 222050

How you can help us

- Donate items of uniform & PE kit that you no longer need. Please drop them off at the school office.
- Keep us up-to-date with any relevant information.
- Consider helping out at Parent Council and other school events.

Helpful Information

The following information may also be of use:

Information about clothing grants and free school meals –
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186 or 0303 123 1011

DWP – Universal Credit helpline – 0800 328 5644

SLC – Money Matters Advice Service – 0303 123 1008

Benefits are Changing Team (for South Lanarkshire Council Tenants) – 0303 123 1012 or
benefitsarechanging@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Shelter Scotland Housing Advice – 0808 800 4444 (out of hours 0800 242024)

Food Co-ops – www.locator.org.uk Clyde, Avon and Nethan Food Bank – 07591 104 027

Hamilton District Food Bank – 07884 451 512

East Kilbride Community Food Bank – 01555 771 700

Best Start Food Payments – 0800 182 2222 or www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant

R:evolve Recycle Clothing Bank – 0141 641 5169 or www.revolve-recycle.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau – 01698 283477 (Hamilton), 01355 263698 (EK), 01555 664301 (Clydesdale)

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.

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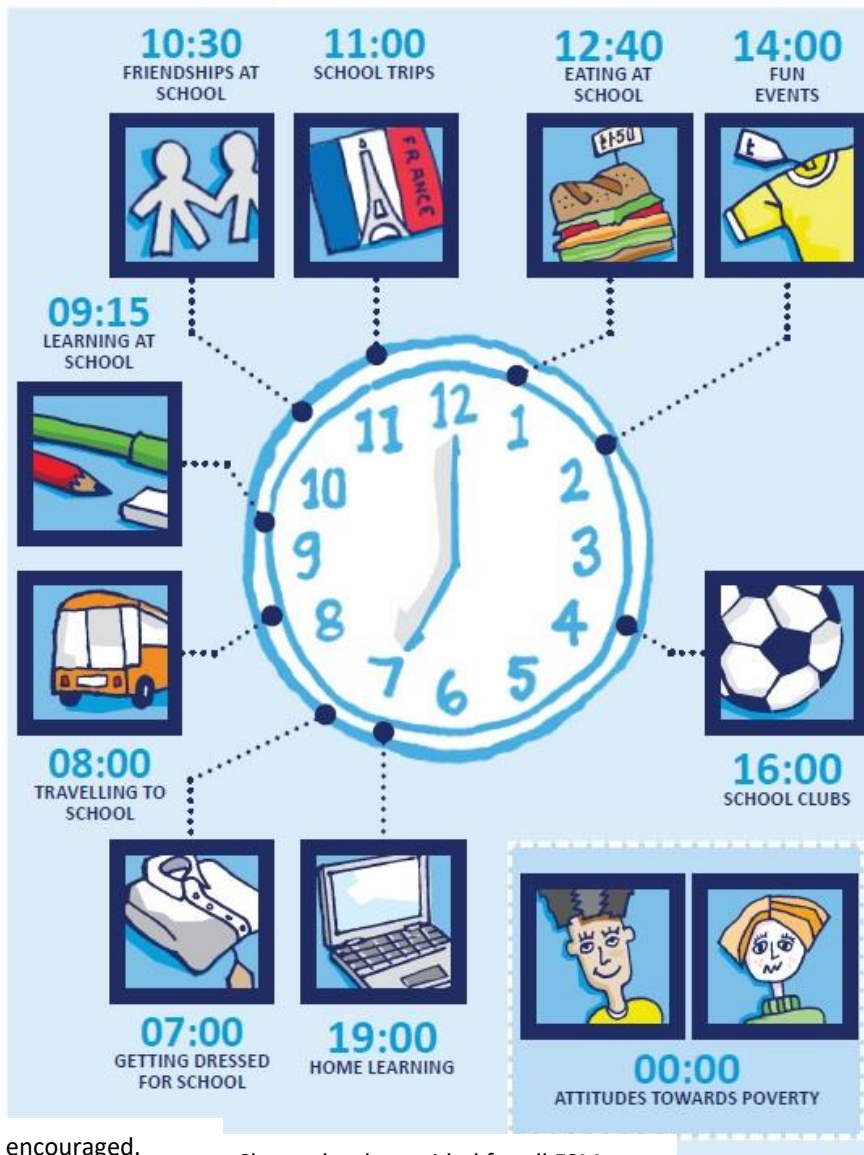
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How does Kirktonholme help with the cost of the school day?

Snacks – promote fruit for all
Provide clubs to support friendships
& sense of belonging

Free for FSMe
Residential subsidised
Parent Council provide
clothing for those in need

Free Breakfast Club
Free Meals for P1-P5
Cashless system reducing stigma
Fruit snack is healthier and cheaper option.



Learning equipment available. Wellbeing supports for all. Daily emotion check ins.

Almost all learners live within walking distance. Free travel for under 22s.

No charge for events.
Pre-loved costumes available

Clubs are free. Pupils consulted on type of club.
Priority booking for any child on FSMe. Siblings can stay for clubs to minimise travelling

Regular school appeals for Food Banks.
Pupil poverty assembly.
Promote financial entitlements.
Monthly newsletter feature. Awareness raising with staff & Parent Council.

Supermarket uniforms encouraged.
Donated uniforms if in need.
Uniform Swap shop.
Winter Clothing appeal & provided to those in need.

Chromebook provided for all FSM pupils. Mifi provided if required.
Chromebooks on loan if required.
Free Please Take Me library.
Other materials provided for some