



Lesmahagow High School

Cost of the School Day Policy



At Lesmahagow High School we are fully committed to removing all barriers to education.

Equity is at the heart of everything we do and is embedded in our core values along with commitment, ambition and resilience.

Within this document, we will consider the support available for young people to facilitate participation and education under the following headings: uniform, learning, eating at school, friendships, trips, fun events, clubs, travel, period products and winter clothing.

Uniform

Our school uniform is plain black footwear, plain black trousers/skirt, white shirt, school tie and black school blazers. More information about our uniform is available on our website at: [Lesmahagow High School](https://www.lesmahagowhighschool.co.uk).

Blazers can be purchased from uniform suppliers in Hamilton or Lanark at: <https://scotcrestschoools.co.uk/> or <https://www.aljonline.co.uk/>. Alternatively, parents/carers can buy a badge from the school office to sew this onto a plain blazer. Braiding has been added as an option for S6 blazers at the request of pupils. Braided blazers can be purchased from either supplier, or braiding can be purchased separately and sewn onto any blazer.

Families can purchase uniforms from other sources, including low priced items from supermarkets, as the priority is for all young people to be in plain black clothing that is unbranded. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts.

In addition, the school maintains a stock of blazers and pre-loved uniform items which are made available to young people who experience any issues in purchasing their own.

Our pre-loved uniform items are very accessible and can be collected during school hours, at school events or by arrangement. Our pre-loved store also includes items for interviews and formal wear. A list of the uniform items currently available can be found on our school website at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p84cpjv>

PE Kits and School Bags

A supply of PE kits and school bags are available for any pupil who needs these. All S1 pupils are provided with a T-shirt for PE as part of their welcome pack.

Learning

In Session 2024-25, all core learning activities are centrally funded. Core materials required for lessons (including jotters, text books and paper, and resources for Home Economics and Technical) are provided and young people do not have to bring their own equipment from home. Teachers and departments, Pupil Support and Support for Learning staff and the school librarian have arrangements in place to allow materials to be borrowed if required for homework tasks.

Any costs associated with trips / excursions which are required for learning are kept to a minimum and pupils are not charged for these. For lifelong learning opportunities (such as reward events and overnight excursions), the school strives to offer these at minimum expense to families and will offer subsidised or fully funded places for pupils entitled to Free School Meals or in SIMD 1 and 2, subject to agreement with individual families.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by providing resources as necessary for young people to achieve to the best of their ability. Subject teachers also ensure that young people are not disadvantaged but are supported through school fund resources as required. A number of digital and internet devices have also been provided where possible to support home learning.

Eating at school

Last school year, 21.4% of pupils were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are keen to encourage all pupils to access this entitlement and regularly request and review reports from the canteen service of young people not using their allocation. Pupil Support staff discuss issues with young people and families and put in place strategies to ensure barriers are removed. Pupils are reminded that drinking water is available from the canteen and water fountains in the Street, therefore pupils can access soup or fruit, a hot main meal/ sandwich/ baguette and a glass of water within their free school meal allowance. Any pupils with special dietary requirements are encouraged to speak to the canteen staff who will be happy to help with menu plans. Reusable water bottles were provided to all students in session 2023-24 and to all new pupils in 2024-25.

Travel

All young people are encouraged to participate in the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme, which provides all young people under the age of 22 with free bus travel when using their Young Scot National Entitlement Card.

The majority of our children travel to school by school bus, mini-bus or taxi. Due to unsafe travel routes, such as the motorway and rural roads without pedestrian routes and distance, most pupils are entitled to free transport offered by SLC. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have lunch time activities, as well as after school. All opportunities for clubs are shared on our school website or school app. Bus passes can also be provided to support participation in after school activities.

Friendships

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We gather the views of our young people and families on the 'Cost of the School Day' and involve them in decision making around this. Our Parent Council have been involved in focused discussions at their meetings to review the Cost of the School Toolkit for Parent Councils.

School Trips

Prior to Covid restrictions, trips were planned for each year group by various teachers across the school and we hope to be able to provide these opportunities again with restrictions easing. Trips can be curricular and extra-curricular in nature. The average cost of trips for pupils can vary from £5 to £500. We try to reduce the cost by making use of Pupil Equity Fund money to support young people who qualify for Free School Meals. As well as this, the school actively promotes the use of School Fund resources to support young people experiencing challenging circumstances. We will continue to be mindful of the trips that we organise, specifically in relation to the costs for families. External funding is also used where possible and over the past three years we have been supported by funding from the Loaningdale Trust Fund. We hope that this additional resource continues to be available to the school in the future. We do not have a policy for families with more than one child but would aim to support them with School Fund resources.

Fun Events

Lesmahagow High School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on families. We intend to 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 planned to ensure that young people are not constantly needing to have money to attend school. We have dramatically reduced the number of non-uniform days for charities and this has reduced the costs to a family. The school's merit reward system allows all young people to participate in reward events and excursions with costs being covered by the school and partners. When young people cannot afford costs associated with any activity, we ensure they can still experience it by having a clear system in place to allow support to be accessed. We currently fundraise for school funds in a range of ways, but understand that not all families are able to contribute. We are grateful for the support provided by our Parent Council, who fundraise throughout the year to support events and activities for pupils.

School Clubs

At Lesmahagow High School, we have the following clubs: Drama Club, Musical Theatre Club, Film Club, Science Club, LGBT+ Club, Netball Club, Lunchtime Nurture Club and Volleyball Club. We normally request a contribution towards the cost of transport for extra-curricular activities. For children entitled to free school meals, this would not apply. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g. badminton racquets, football boots. In this case, the school purchase resources and support families who may not be able to afford these additional costs.

Period Products

Period products are available in all school toilets, from the Health and Wellbeing trolley, Pupil Support, changing rooms and the school office. We have also shared information on how to order period products online and have these delivered to your home.

Winter Clothing

A supply of new and pre-loved winter clothing is available for collection, including winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves, tights and jumpers.

Our Commitment

We would encourage all parents/carers experiencing financial issues to contact their child's Pupil Support Teacher or our Lead Teachers of Equity and Inclusion (please see contact details below) and have a confidential conversation about the support available. This will hopefully lead to the school being able to offer the appropriate provision to allow their child to receive as full and as rounded a school experience as possible.

Next steps

We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance especially in the current economic climate. Our School Improvement Plan for 2024/25 focuses on ensuring that all pupils have access to the resources required to support their learning and participation in school

For advice or support with any issue relating to the cost of the school day please contact our Principal Teachers of Equity and Inclusion, your child's Pupil Support Teacher, or any member of the Senior Management Team.

Staff Contact List

Lead Teacher of Equity, Inclusion and Engagement:

Miss Sophie Leckenby - gw09leckenbysophie@glow.sch.uk

Care Experienced Champion:

gw07millershirley@glow.sch.uk

Principal Teachers of Pupil Support

Mr Jim Mallaghan (PT Pupil Support – Kerse House) -
gw07mallaghanjames@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Linda Wright (PT Pupil Support - Logan House) –
gw07wrightlinda5@glow.sch.uk

Miss Anna Fletcher (PT Pupil Support – Milton House) –
gw18fletcheranna@glow.sch.uk

Miss Iasha Iqbal (Acting PT Pupil Support)
gw11iqbaliasha@glow.sch.uk

Senior Management Team

Miss Barbara Lee (Head Teacher) – gw18lesmahagowht@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Lesley-Anne Cimmino (Depute Head Teacher)

Mrs Pamela Docherty (Depute Head Teacher – Inclusion Support Team) –
gw19dochertypamela@glow.sch.uk

Mr Alastair Gray (Depute Head Teacher) – gw14grayalastair@glow.sch.uk

Mr David Robertson (Depute Head Teacher) – gw10robertsondavid8@glow.sch.uk