**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**‘Cost of the School Day’ Position Statement**

At Our Lady of Lourdes we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all of our pupils and, in particular, for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We focus on a whole school approach where we work as a school community to identify and tackle financial barriers to participation and learning for our children and parents/carers through sustainable actions taking into account the reality of increased cost of living balanced with the availability of school budget and other financial supports.

**Awareness Raising and Communication (including Consulting and Planning)**: We endeavour to raise awareness with parents/carers, pupils and staff and build an ethos of support within our school community. We promote the Cost of the School Day agenda through communication channels such as our School App, Website and Twitter. We audit costs of the school day within the school community (parents/carers, pupil voice, staff) and ways to overcome these, update our Cost of the Day Position Statement and put measures into action. We realise that this should be reviewed regularly as new challenges arise. The Cost of the School Day agenda is added to our School Improvement Plan as appropriate.

**Entitlements and Financial Supports**: Whilst we are all responsible for promoting equity, we have key staff who focus on promoting this area: Equity Lead, Participatory Budgeting Lead and our Health and Wellbeing Coordinator. We promote entitlements such as our Breakfast club, Free School Meals, Period Poverty and offer a range of financial supports through charities, SVDP and anonymous donations.

**School Uniform**: Our current uniform is a navy skirt or pinafore/navy trousers, navy jumper or cardigan, blue shirt and school tie. We do not make the school badge mandatory on our jumpers/cardigans to keep the cost of uniform as low as possible. The school blazer is an optional extra only. Whilst families can purchase badged uniforms from [**www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk**](http://www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk); they can use an alternative range of stockists where navy uniform is available. Ties and badges are also available from our school office. On PE days, the children wear light blue poloshirts and navy shorts. A school uniform is one of the most affordable types of clothing as it removes the pressure of having different clothes available each day and/or the wearing of makes/designers etc. The school always has a ‘Uniform Bank’ available and, through parental support, provides ‘Pop-Up Uniform Shops’/’Swap-Shops’ throughout the year and ’Uniform Stalls’ at the Christmas and Summer Fayres where pre-loved uniforms can be accessed and reused. New ‘Winter Woolies’ (gloves, hats, scarves, tights etc) can also be provided for children throughout the colder months.

**Curriculum:** Staff and pupil use the curriculum to explore and promote Cost of the School Day. Curriculum areas that lend itself to this include the following: Numeracy and Maths (eg Financial Education), Skills for Learning, Life and Work (eg Careers’ Week), Health and Wellbeing (eg SHANARRI, Rights of the Child), Social Studies and Religious Education although this is not an exhaustive list.

**Learning and Resources (including Home Learning):** In consultation with our parents, we ensure that our Pupil Equity Funding is used to support learners who are in low income families eg those children entitled to free school meals or living in Deciles 1 or 2 as well as families at higher risk of falling into poverty due to the rising cost of living. (Households with single parents, disabled members, children under one, three or more children, a mother aged under 25 or a minority ethnic background make up the majority of households with children that are in poverty.)

Children at Our Lady of Lourdes do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Curriculum resources and equipment (including basic stationery and reading books etc) are provided and young people do not require to bring any items to school.

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by setting tasks that can be carried out in a range of ways (eg instead of looking up the internet, children can visit the library or have information books sent home etc). We endeavour to only set tasks that can be completed in a range of ways so that *all* pupils can carry them out no matter their family circumstances. In order to support our children with accessing Google Classroom, free computers have been given to families throughout the last few years supported by the government and local authority. Stationery is available at any time for pupils to take home in order to access home learning and, at the beginning of the school year, a pop-up Home-Learning stall is available for parents/carers to take any supplies for their children. The school has some availability to loan children equipment if required.

**Travel/Transport**: The majority of our children travel to school by car. Transport is also provided by the Local Authority for children who have a bus place. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore try to ensure that we have a range of lunch time activities as well as after school.

**Friendships**: We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We teach our children about poverty related issues as part a range of curriculum areas including a focus during Anti-Bullying Week.

**Eating at School**: Currently we around 14% of our 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 having a list of chn in receipt of FME rather than asking the children to identify themselves. We estimate that approximately 50% of P4-7 pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement.

**Events/Fundraising/Celebrations**: Our Lady of Lourdes recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure onto families. We look carefully at attendance and participation in these events in order to check if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. As with school trips, our Fun Events are planned in advance and appropriate notice given. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity, we ensure they can still experience it by either waving the cost or by finding an alternative means of payment. We currently fundraise through our Active Health Day and understand that not all families are able to contribute so, through the Parent Council, we also arrange several activities with the community (eg Summer Fayre) so that we are not solely targeting our own school’s families. In addition, we work with the local community who are very generous with their time and gifts (eg free fruit to support our Sports’ Day). It is always voluntary for our families to give money/items towards fundraising.

**Trips/Clubs/Activities**: Currently our summer trips are planned each year in consultation with our pupils. Whilst the actual average cost of these trips is increasing due to cost of living, we try to maintain a lower cost each year through using funding from the Parent Council to subsidize trips. We do have a policy for families with 3 or more children where the total amount payable for summer trips should not exceed £20. Children are asked not to bring money to spend on trips to further reduce the financial pressure on parents/carers.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we have a wide range of weekly after school clubs (eg Netball, Badminton, Football, Athletics, Recorder, Choir, Website) as well as blocks of lunchtime clubs (eg Multisports, Irish Dancing etc). There is no charge for any of the pupils taking part. Some clubs may require specific equipment (eg badminton racquet, football boots) and we do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these by providing as much of the school equipment as possible as well as having our own school tracksuits, shorts and t-shirts, raquets etc.

*This statement will be updated by June 2023.*