



## Reducing the Cost of the School Day

*More than one in five children (220, 000) children across Scotland are officially recognised as living in poverty. In Glasgow, it is estimated that one in three children is living in poverty. Insufficient household income can mean that children and young people don't have the resources needed for school and can't easily afford to take part in school activities that cost money. This can put them at risk of missing out on opportunities at school and feeling different, excluded and unhappy.*

*(Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland, [education.gov.scot](http://education.gov.scot))*

Reducing the cost of the school day is a high priority for St Mark's Primary. We are aware that insufficient household income is a harsh reality for many families across Scotland, and affects many within our school community. It is our aim that no child is disadvantaged or unable to fully participate in any aspect of life at St Mark's.

Our school currently benefits from additional funding from the Scottish government through the Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme and Pupil Equity Funding. These funds support the school to target closing the poverty related attainment gap that exists for so many. We use our funding to target many aspects of learning, health and wellbeing, and to ensure that no child is disadvantaged. We also work closely with our Parent Council and community organisations to source other help which may be available. This includes the local parish and St Vincent de Paul society.

Some ways in which we are currently addressing the cost of the school day include:

- Subsidising the cost of school trips
- Free and subsidised after school clubs
- Providing items of uniform that pupils can use if they are without
- Providing all pupils with any resources they may need throughout the school day
- Providing pupils with materials they may need to complete home learning activities
- Fundraising activities directed at reducing amount of money asked for to participate in school events
- Providing food/snacks for any children who are without
- Providing health and wellbeing support and resources/items
- Ensuring families are aware of how to access clothing and free school meal grants

We aim to build further our capacity to reduce the cost of the school day, and have included this as a priority in our School Improvement Plan for next session. Our plans include looking at ways we can recycle clothing, use of ICT resources for families, extending uniform provision and class resources available to borrow.

We encourage all families within our school community to speak to the Head Teacher, or any school staff, at any time, and we will ensure confidentiality and understanding, as we work together to help and support in any way we can.