



## **Cost of the School Day Policy**

### **Udston Primary School**

**UNCRC - Article 27 I have the right to have a proper home, food and clothing**

**UNCRC – Article 29 I have the right to an education which develops my personality, talents and abilities.**

#### **Rationale**

At Udston Primary School we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and families and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. After analysis of the guidance on Cost of the School Day provided from SLC we are committed to supporting our families in the following ways: Uniform, Travel, Learning, OPAL, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs, Digital and Home learning.

#### **Uniform**

In consultation with parents/carers, our current uniform is:

- Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- Royal blue or white polo shirt; white shirt and school tie
- Royal blue or grey jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan
- Blue and white checked summer dress
- Black gym shoes (for indoor use)
- PE kit (plain blue/white t-shirt/polo shirt)
- Wellies/waterproof footwear
- Waterproof jacket

Families can purchase uniforms from most high street stores/online or local supplier, Scotcrest in Hamilton. We do not insist on badged clothing/accessories. Next session we intend to continue being part of the Community Links' Summer Event whereby donated school uniform is recycled. This takes place before the start of term in August. We have a large stock of pre-loved uniform which is available to all families. We also offer families the opportunities to select pre-loved uniform for our new Primary 1 children as part of our transition programme. Please contact the school at any time if you require any uniform items. We have a selection of wellies available, particularly for our younger pupils, and encourage families to donate any outgrown wellies still in good condition. We also provide waterproofs for our infant children. A selection of indoor shoes are available for any child requiring these. We continue to work with our very active Parent Council to find new and improved ways of supporting all our families.

#### **Travel**

The majority of our children walk or are driven to school. The local authority provides transport for any child living out with a two miles radius. We encourage all families to apply for their Under 22 Free Bus pass ([www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/nec/](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/nec/)). Travel costs will never prevent any of our pupils from attending an educational excursion held during the school day.

#### **Learning**

Children at Udston 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. We currently have a procedure for young people to borrow equipment if they need it for homework (e.g. pencils, craft equipment). Every year we aim to cover the cost of P6 swimming lessons, and the transport required for this. By doing so, every pupil has the opportunity to learn this important life skill. These monies can be a combination of Parent Council funds,



*Learn together, Laugh together, Achieve together*

PEF fund &/or School Budget. We have an extensive school library which all children have access to on a weekly basis to borrow books for home use.

**OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)**

As an OPAL school, ensuring equitable play opportunities for all children is a shared priority, therefore we allocate PEF, School Fund and Parent Council monies to the development and maintenance of this. We are aware that not all families have access to high quality play spaces and resources, therefore we strive to facilitate access to these during break times.

**Friendships**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. Staff are skilled in providing nurturing, pastoral care and have an in-depth knowledge of our children to ensure that we meet the holistic needs of our learners. We teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our Health and Wellbeing programme. Through our Learning Community Diversity and Equalities priority, we identified Poverty as a theme to be explored through Literacy and Health Wellbeing. We intend to gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and will continue to involve them in decision making around this. We work closely with our Parent Council and try to identify creative ways of engaging families in school events that have minimum or reduced cost.

**Period Poverty**

Within the school, there are sanitary products for all to access to tackle period poverty. The products are positioned in the girls' toilet and the disabled toilet to provide discrete access to all. The school is committed to accessing free sanitary products this year where available.

**School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year in consultation with teaching staff. The average cost of trips for pupils is dependent on the cost of transport. We try to reduce the cost by arranging educational visits to places where entry is free and subsidising the cost of the buses. We currently have a Primary 7 residential and families are given advanced notice of the average cost to allow the cost to be spread out. We are able to offer financial support when required and encourage families to reach out if they need help and support with this as we want to ensure that no child misses out. The school also has committed to paying for the transport to and from the residential over the last 2 years to reduce the costs and our Primary 7 pupil utilise their enterprise skills by organising fundraising events to further reduce the cost.

**Eating at school**

This session, 27.5% of pupils are in receipt of free school meals. Parent Pay is used to ensure subtlety when ordering and paying for lunches. Currently all children in P1-5 are eligible for a free school meal. Not all our families who are entitled to Free School Meals take up this offer. We provide support and guidance to families to ensure they are aware of their entitlement to free school meals. Links can be found on the South Lanarkshire website and in our school handbooks. All children are encouraged to maintain healthy eating habits in line with the Schools Act (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2020. We always have fruit available for any child who does not bring a snack. If families require support in providing food for their family, we will signpost them to the appropriate agencies e.g. local Foodbank.

**Breakfast Club**

All pupils have the option to attend Breakfast Club which runs from 8.15-8.45am each day. This facility is free and ensures children attending have access to a healthy breakfast daily. The school actively encourages all families to access this fantastic resource.



### **Fundraising Events**

Udston Primary School recognise that wider school events can put added pressure on to families. We have been looking carefully at attendance and participation in these events to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. As with school trips, our Fundraising Events are included in our annual calendar, however we put greater emphasis on awareness raising of high-profile causes e.g. Comic Relief, rather than fundraise for them. Our Parent Council organise fun events throughout the school year. When children cannot afford to take part in any activity we absorb the cost as a school. Funds raised by the Parent Council are used to support the work of the school as well as to provide a Hardship Fund for any families requiring support.

### **Digital Equity**

At Udston, we have been looking critically at the digital equity for our families and ways to support them. We actively apply for grants and additional funding to boost the digital technology within the school and provide drop-in sessions for families with limited access to Wi-Fi or technology to ensure that they are logged on to Parent Portal and have access to all means of communication from the school to ensure they can actively participate in their child's education.

### **School Clubs**

At Udston Primary School we aim to provide a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, some taking place at lunchtimes, some after school. We currently do not insist on any specialist kit for any of our extra-curricular activities. No child would be refused the opportunity to participate, due to lack of equipment. Over the course of the school session, we aim to offer each child the opportunity to take part in at least one free extra-curricular club.

### **Home Learning**

We aim to reduce the cost of learning at home, by providing all materials if required. We encourage all children to complete homework tasks and strategies are in place to facilitate this, however, we fully appreciate that individual circumstances need to be considered.

### **Curriculum**

A final step in assisting our families is looking at ways to empower our young people to become financially literate with their own personal finances for the future. The school are looking at enhancing the curriculum by including a Financial Fortnight in the annual calendar so that pupils can develop a solid understanding of budgeting, saving and making financially informed decisions.

### **Review**

We are very aware that 'The Cost of the School Day' is ever evolving and requires regular review to reflect the needs of the school community.

Policy created in September 2024

Review date August 2025.