



Our Cost of the School Day Position Statement

At Victoria Park 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 examine the School Day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning and Communication, School Trips and Extra Curricular Experiences, Eating and Drinking, School Clubs and Improvement Planning.

We have begun to gather the views of our staff and Parent Council on the Cost of the School Day with a view to involving them in decision-making around this.

Uniform

Our current uniform is a white polo shirt, red sweat shirt, grey or black skirt, joggers or trousers. Families can purchase badged uniform items from the school. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts and encourage parents to look at more affordable options in supermarkets and other clothing retailers. Our parents and carers currently donate a significant amount of uniform items for use as spare clothes in school. In 2020 we intend to consult with our families on developing this into a "Swap Shop" of 'previously owned' items, which can be accessed at any time. The "Swap Shop" may be displayed at events such as parent consultations. This will allow families to donate outgrown items of uniform and swap for larger items if they wish.

We keep a bank of clothing suitable for outdoor learning, Forest School e.g. waterproof trousers and wellingtons so these are available when pupils have not brought them into school for outings or outdoor learning.

Travel

As our school is a provision for learners with Additional Support Needs from across the local authority. School transport is provided by the Local Authority. A very small number of children living locally travel by car and on foot. We are aware that this could mean that most children are not able to attend after school clubs. We therefore ensure that we have lunchtime activities and clubs for learners and all children are encouraged to attend one of these activities each term.

Learning and Communication

Children at Victoria Park School do not pay for any core learning activity. All learning resources are provided. Communication is supported by a range of Augmentative and Assistive Communication strategies in school, including low tech and high tech resources. Parents are encouraged to use these strategies at home to support children's learning, with home school news being shared using technology to support communication at home. Should families require advice on accessing resources for home to support their child's communication they are encouraged to discuss this with the school or our NHS specialist Speech and Language Therapist.

School Trips and Extra Curricular Experiences

Currently our trips are planned to support classes Interdisciplinary Learning themes. As these trips are directly linked to learning there will be no cost to parents. Should a trip be planned that is not directly linked to curriculum themes and a small cost to the school is incurred we will endeavour to cover this from school funds, while aiming to ensure that this kind of cost is equitable for children across the school, e.g. special trips and experiences at Christmas time. We are able to cover the cost of extra –curricular experiences, e.g. Horse-riding, through the valuable support of our Friends of Victoria Park Parent group and by using school funds. We would aim to give families as much notice as possible if there were ever to be a cost involved. “Dress Down Days” and sponsored events will be kept to a minimum and contributions to school supported charities at these times is completely voluntary and would not affect children’s participation. All celebrations e.g. our Nativity and Celebration of Achievement and whole school events for parents/carers to share our learning will remain free of charge.

Eating and Drinking

Approximately 40 % of our families are registered to receive Free School Meals. There is no cost for lunch to our families as a result of South Lanarkshire Councils arrangements with Scottish Government for children who have Eating and Drinking as part of their curriculum. We understand that there may be stigma associated with free school lunches however we are clear in our position that for our learners Eating and Drinking is a core part of the curriculum. Most of our children have Specialist Speech and Language Therapist derived Eating and Drinking Plans alongside educational targets from Curriculum for Excellence Health and Wellbeing outcomes. We know that a larger group than this may be entitled to free school meals but do not claim them. Ongoing consultation with our Parent Group has highlighted this issue and we have concluded that some parents may not be claiming this entitlement as our children receive free school meals as Eating and Drinking is a vital part of our children’s curriculum. Through our Parent Focus Groups and Friends of Victoria Park we will regularly consult with parents as to parents wish to have advice workshops on accessing resources available to families of children with additional support needs.

School Clubs

At Victoria Park School we have many lunch time clubs including; Singing and Signing Club, Lego Club, Bats and Balls Club, TAC PAC, Messy Play and Relaxation Club.

All clubs are delivered by our School Support Assistants and are open to children choosing to go to them.

Improvement Planning

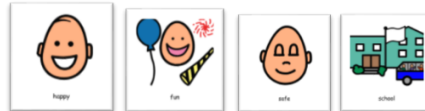
We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance and will not be ‘fixed’ by any one action. In our Improvement Plan for 2019/20 we will be focusing on:

- Gathering the views of parents with regards to what are the views of the parent forum which, in turn will inform our future practice.
- Continue to offer all pupils a range of clubs to participate in.
- Monitor club participation and offer regular lunchtime clubs.
- Continuing to ensure that we, as a school and our Parent Group are alert to our

- concerns around The Cost of the School Day when planning events and activities.
- Our position regarding the Cost of the School Day is inseparable from our Vision and Values and as such embodies our position on equality of access to learning and will be revisited regularly along with our Vision and Values

(This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day).

Our Vision



In our safe, happy, fun school



We all grow to be the best we can be

Our Values



Equality, Kindness, Respect