

Wester Overton



Primary School

**Cost of the School Day Position**  
**Statement**  
**January 2021**



At Wester Overton Primary School we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We examine the School Day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School Trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home learning.

### **Uniform**

Our current uniform is grey skirt or trousers, blue polo shirt or blue shirt and tie and blue sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper. Families can purchase uniforms from Scotcrest Uniforms (<https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/>). We **do not** insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts. We also run a recycled uniform service, where uniforms can be returned to the school when outgrown. There are then laundered and packaged and distributed free of charge. We also hold a supply of coats and jackets which are also distributed free of charge.

### **Travel**

The majority of our children travel to school on foot. Transport is provided for those who live more than 1 mile away by the Local Authority. 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.

### **Learning**

Children at Wester Overton Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning. Materials, including basic stationery, 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 and provide any materials required (e.g paper/ books/craft equipment). In addition, we run a school shop which provides good quality stationery at a reduced price to make these items accessible for all. Children who do not have PE kit are provided with this from our kit store.

### **Friendships**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our anti-bullying programme and regular Health and Wellbeing Curriculum. In addition, we are a Rights Committed School and incorporate poverty related issues into our assembly programme. We intend to gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and involve them in decision making around this.

### **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by linking appropriate field trips to class learning and make our pupils' learning experience more real and enjoyable. The average cost of trips for pupils is £5. We always reduce costs by subsidising all trips from our school fund.

### **Eating at school**

In 2019-2020 we had 6 % of pupils who were 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 using the cashless Parent Pay system and widely publicising information regarding free school meals. We estimate that

approximately 90% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. Families are regularly encouraged to apply for Free School Meals.

### **Fun Events**

Wester Overton Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We currently 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 well in advance and are free or subsidised from school funds to reduce pressure on families. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by financing this from our school fund. We currently fund raise only twice a year by hosting a Christmas Fair and a Summer Coffee Morning, and understand that not all families are able to contribute. We limit fundraising for charity to two events each year; our Macmillan Coffee morning and one other, chosen by the school community. Families can also contribute to the local foodbank through the school.

*\*In December 2020, we were aware that many of our families were struggling through COVID related job losses. We invited families to contribute to hampers and donate Christmas gifts anonymously. These were then distributed to families in our school community.*

### **School Clubs**

At Wester Overton Primary School we have the following clubs; choir, netball, girls' football, P7 football, P5/6 football, badminton and sign language. We do not charge children to take part in any of our clubs. Some clubs may require specific equipment and we help families who may not be able to afford these by providing all equipment.

### **Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by lending equipment, providing craft materials and providing computer access during break times. We do not set formal homework at Wester Overton, and instead families are provided with a home learning grid with learning opportunities to be covered over the term ahead. Families who do not have access to a suitable digital device for home learning and lent one by the school. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy.

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. Our next steps on this journey are:

- Raising the profile of our recycled school uniform service.
- Establishing more lunch time clubs to allow children using school transport a choice of clubs.
- Setting up an anti bullying committee to include children across the school and raise awareness of poverty related bullying.

