Cost of the School Day Action Plan 2024-25

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| Minimise costs and reduce pressure on family budgets | Current Provision | Challenges | Next Steps |
| Excursions | -Establishment of a school Equity Strategy and House system taking a lead in identifying needs and ideas for how to address thenThe cost and timing of the trip is considered before booking.-Credit Union in school weekly and parents are signposted to open an account throughout the session-School/ Parent Council fundraising subsidises the cost of transport.-Parents are given a long notice period of planned excursions - School communications advise that the school can help cover the cost of excursions- Residential trips and school excursions – payments made in instalments-Ipay accounts opened well in advance to give parents long periods to pay- Uniforms worn on trips to alleviate additional costs to parents-School sports clothing kept in school e.g. football/ netball kits and jackets- School lunches provided for P1-5 and those in receipt of FSMs to take on trips.  | -Cost of clothing for some trips e.g. waterproofs, appropriate footwear- Cost of packed lunchDiscretion – how to approach families we feel may be struggling to cover costs?- Identifying some families where poverty is not obvious- Bank of school waterproofs/ ponchos etc.-Cost of living crisis | - Clothing bank/pop up shop for outdoor clothing- Continue to consider the educational value of trips- School audit of trips planned -Build profile of school Credit Union events |
| Financial support to meet the cost of the school day | -School offers support for essentials such as uniforms and other clothing; Clothing Bank; Pre-loved uniform and clothing bank support; food bank advice; provision of digital devices and equipment to access the internet; Community Fridge support; support from Saint Vincent De Paul and Parish -House Captains organise termly labelling of uniform - Information is provided regularly in school newsletters/ app about ways we can financially support families.- Families are encouraged to apply for appropriate benefits e.g. clothing grants, and free school meals. Support is available from the office to help complete forms.- Financial support is given to cover the cost of school trips- Use of toy appeals during Christmas-Raised profile of Foodbank Charity Shop through events such as Fashion Show-Use of pop up Food bank charity shop for seasonal clothing and school camp-Healthy snacks available for pupils at breaks if need be- Families encouraged to use the breakfast club- Fundraising events carefully planned to occur across the session | -use of IPay facility to pay for school trips- Clothing bank/swap shop for outdoor clothing- Continue to consider the educational value of trips- School audit of trips planned  | -Table of school costs for over the year provided to families - Possible parent/ carer workshops: budget/ money workshops, eat well for less – at Parents’ night or in school / online- School to continue to consider alternative ways to raise funds to alleviate financial pressure on families |
| Ensure equal access to opportunities regardless of income | Current Provision | Challenges | Next Steps |
| Extra-curricular activities | -Digital devices available to all families who require them-Parents supported to access all digital platforms/resources- School run after-school clubs are all free- Clubs run by other agencies are free or support is provided to allow children to participate - School purchases help resources for clubs.- Transport to sporting competitions is provided by the school- Children are encouraged to participate in clubs. -School provides suitable clothing to allow all children to participate in clubs -Class teachers and PSWs run lunch time and after-school clubs free of charge.  | - Cost of clothing for some trips e.g. waterproofs, appropriate footwear- Cost of packed lunch-Discretion – how to approach families we feel may be struggling to offer support- Identifying some families where poverty is not obvious - Bank of school waterproofs/ ponchos etc.-Cost of living crisis-Not all families can budget or have bank accounts with a minimum of £5 in them-Adult literacy levels-EAL families with English language difficulties in adults | use of IPay facility to pay for school trips-Foodbank Charity pop up shop- Continue to consider the educational value of tripsUse PEF to support families in financial difficulty- School audit of trips planned -EAL Language Support/ Literacy support-Signpost families to support agencies |
| Leavers’ events | -School subsidise leavers’ events -there is no cost for events for children- P7 Leavers’ Assembly and Class Mass for the whole school and families. - P7 pupils plan and organise a simple end-of-term treat – - Cost of P7 hoodies kept to a minimum. School funds or fund raising to buy hoodies to ensure all children receive one. These are now ordered in Autumn Term.- Nursery leavers assembly and concert have no cost attached-Participatory budget – children and parents/carers voted to support school events to ensure all can participate | - - Families working unpredictable hours or zero-hours contracts- Changes in universal credit- It can be challenging for some parents/carers to access the information they need to apply for benefits (lack of knowledge of what is available, no internet access)- There can be more of a financial burden at certain times of the year. | - Annual plan for trips/ events provided to families -Provide budget/ money workshops, eat well for less – at Parents’ night or in school / online- Staff to continue to consider alternative ways to raise funds to alleviate financial pressure for families |
| Engagement with parents | - Class organised Conversation Café and Assemblies -Coffee mornings, with help with digital platforms, help completing forms, workshops, 1:1 meetings with pupils and parents, support during crisis-PE kit bank, available and laundered in school-Parent Focus groups January - June-School App has improved communication with parents- Family helpers-Your Space Counselling Service Tuesday and Wednesday each week- -Big Bedtime Read-Introduced online events, e.g. social media workshops run by NSPCC- Whitburn Galaday Committee, participation on the day.- Parents Evenings’ – twice a year- ELC Virtual Classroom to share innovation and news with parents/Carers -Stay and play sessions offered at the nursery to all parents/carers-Individual online learning journals provided for all children and staff support parents/carers who have difficulty accessing these-Helping with Ipay and e-platforms-Sharing the learning visit for every class in the Spring Term-STEAM week with parental activities-Glasgow Science Centre Workshops for families-Families Connect ActivitiesBig Spooky Read- Storytelling sessions | -Some pupils are reluctant to participate due to a lack of confidence. Some have never experienced clubs outside of school. | -Monitor attendance at school clubs and identify children who have never attended an after-school club - School to continue to try to offer a wider range of clubs on offer before/ after school and at lunchtime |
| **Reduce poverty-related stigma****Poverty awareness** | -School office staff have close relationships and good communication with families to discuss matters in confidence-Breakfast club: staff encourage pupils to go to the club if they feel a child has not eaten breakfast.- Financial support is available to subsidise school trips.- Use of IPay Impact to pay for meals – pupils are less aware of children who receive free school meals.- Children are more aware through HWB lessons, assemblies, NSPCC workshops and Your Space support- Homework Club for pupils and Conversation Cafés and Parental HWB Club-Devices and technical support available for all families. - Participatory Budget – families encouraged to become involved in the decision-making | - High number of events in term 3-Consider the pressure on clothing for events-Participatory budget contribution may not be long term | - Advertise saving scheme for end-of-term treats/ hoodies etc. Begin in P6?- Plan the timing of events to spread the cost- Ensure that events are planned well in advance so that too many things do not happen at the same time. |
| **School Improvement Processes** | -School supports parents with essentials -Children self-evaluate using well-being indicators which can lead to Trusted Adult conversations and, at times, support for families- Your Space counsellors support pupils referred or those self-referring to the service- Use of online survey to gather views of parents during Parents’ Evenings – to inform future school developments.- Parent surveys to inform developments are put onto Forms on the school app.- Pupil ethos survey informs future school developments.- HWB focus during staff in-service days and targeted CLPL (Trauma training, ACEs, impact of poverty)- Working with to establish a Parent Council - Share school improvement priorities with pupils, parents and partner agencies.-Use of data to ensure that children in the lowest SIMD are not disadvantaged.- School measures the impact of interventions.- Regular reminders about Breakfast Club on app and newsletters- Continue to interrogate data to support children who are disadvantaged due to poverty and hidden poverty- Nursery staff member delivers Families Connect programme to parents/carers of school aged children-Online questionnaires used in nursery to gather views from all parents/carers | - Same parents who attend events- Some parents may lack confidence or have other reasons that make it difficult to engage.-Working parents unable to attend events. Zero-hour and flexible-hour contracts- Language barriers (EAL parents)- Access to ICT might be problematic for some parents, perhaps they are unable to use the app or access the website/blog.- Some parents lack the confidence to participate in Parent Council.-Cost of living crisis | More opportunities for parents to stay, play and learn with their children. - HWB Events to engage parents in their child’s learning and HWB.- Direct parents to translation tools - Consider the role of a Parent Council and what a good meeting looks / sounds / feels like to ensure positivity and welcoming ethos for all.-Re-introduction of events in school to encourage parents to return. |
| **Cost of Living Crisis** | -SLT contacts parents to offer support with clothing, food and washing machine tokens to address poverty-related issues.-St Vincent De Paul and Parish groups link with the school to provide support to identified families-welcoming warm places’ across West Lothian which can provide a warm space for people to rest in addition to acting as a hub where they can access advice and support in relation to the cost of living.  More information can be found here - [www.westlothian.gov.uk/warm-welcome](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/warm-welcome) this map also includes information about community food providers. -Practical help and support through the development of self-help booklets, which will be held in a central location to allow support to be accessed easily and quickly, a dedicated information hub has been created to hold all cost-of-living support information.  [www.westlothian.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/costofliving) | -Hidden poverty: It is difficult to identify all families who live in poverty.- Some pupils are still coming to school without breakfast-Not all children who are living in poverty are entitled to free school meals.- School trips: not all parents will alert the school to financial difficulties. This is also impacts on the school budget.-Cost of living crisis | -Remain sensitive to changes in circumstances within families- Ensure snacks are available for latecomers and those arriving late who have not had breakfast-Extend HWB Club to include Life Skills with families e.g. cooking, gardening, ICT- Nursery kindness cupboard planned for all parents/carers to access discreetly |