



Carnwath Primary School

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

In Carnwath 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 a gold poloshirt, black sweatshirt, black trousers or skirt. Families can purchase uniforms from the school. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts and / or poloshirts. We are in the process of setting up a pre-loved uniform service for parents.

Travel

The majority of our children live within Carnwath and are able to walk. Transport is provided for those outwith the village by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean some 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 Carnwath 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 do not have a procedure for young people to borrow equipment if they need it for homework however staff are mindful of those who may need to be given resources.

Friendships

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our PSE 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 each class teacher. The cost of our day trips ranges from those that are free to £5.35. We reduce the cost by the Parent Council fundraising in order to contribute to each trip. External funding is used where possible and last session we were awarded a grant of £1500 from a local charity. Children are offered an overnight residential experience in Primary 6 which cost £30 this year. Primary 7 children are offered a 5 day residential experience which cost £250 this year. Parents are given between one and two years to pay this cost and there is also a contribution made by the Parent Council. We do not have a policy for families with more than one child.

Eating at school

Last school year we had 21% 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 ensuring children in receipt of free school meals are not able to be identified by others within school. We estimate that approximately 93% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. In order to increase that percentage we intend to continue to encourage families to apply if they feel they are entitled to claim a free meal.

Fun Events

Carnwath Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure onto families. We intend to 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 by staff and Parent Council. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by providing the relevant resources. Currently our Parent Council fundraise for us. We also fundraise in school for charity and understand that not all families are able to contribute so we ask for donations which are optional.

School Clubs

At Carnwath Primary School we have various clubs that run throughout the session. We do not charge for children to take part.

Home Learning

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by not asking children to do something that requires particular equipment or costly resources. We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle and we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and pupils who do not complete homework are not given a sanction although we encourage them all to complete homework. 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:

- ✓ Audit of our practice
- ✓ Engagement with all stakeholders
- ✓ Agreeing a positive way forward
- ✓ Writing a school policy

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