



Linlithgow Primary School

Reducing the Cost of the School Day Statement

2024-2025

We currently have the following measures in place which help our families with school costs and make sure that all our children can participate and learn. All our staff are aware of the effects of poverty and how it can relate to the context of our school, community and children. We are dedicated to ensuring that we deliver a curriculum which is equitable and accessible to all of our learners.

As a Rights Respecting school, our Reducing the Cost of the School Day Statement ensures that we adhere to the following UNCRC articles:

Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

School Uniform:

Universal: Our school uniform consists of grey trousers, shorts or skirt, white or blue polo shirt or a white shirt and Linlithgow Primary School tie, blue sweat shirt or cardigan. Plain unembroidered items are acceptable. Black gym shoes, white t-shirt and black or blue shirts form part of our PE Kit.

Targeted: We carefully consider our uniform supplier each year to ensure that we are providing low cost/durable uniforms at a good price for our families. We do not insist on badged clothing. Uniform can be ordered online. We have an extensive selection of 'nearly new' uniform items which are made available to families (in our school foyer), during our monthly uniform 'Swap Shops', Our Swap Shop is run by volunteers and we publicise this regularly in our newsletters. We also hold 'Swap Shops' for sports equipment and clothing and for seasonal activities such as 'Xmas Jumper Day'. For families, who need further support, we will sensitively and discretely provide items of uniform from our school stock. We have also received items from the School Bank West Lothian for families experiencing financial hardship, including school uniform and outerwear for school activities and residential camps. We have available Clothing Grant forms and staff are available to support the completion of applications.

Travelling to School:

Universal: Our school serves the catchment of the Linlithgow area. Almost all our children live within walking distance to school. Currently we have no children who require bus transportation to get to school each day. Afterschool clubs are offered on the school premises, therefore there is no need to travel any distance.

Targeted: If access to school is an issue, then we support families on an individual basis to ensure that their child can attend and is on time. Staff are available to support families to complete transport applications if transportation difficulties were to arise. If transport is required for excursions, a subsidy is applied to reduce any further costing.

Friendships at School:

Universal: Uniform is promoted to reduce the pressure of branded clothing. Our school values and positive relationship policy promotes kindness and positive relationships. Positive relationships and kindness is encouraged through our weekly school assemblies and adult modelling. This year we intend to teach all pupils about poverty related issues through the voice of our Pupil Equity Group as well as through our Financial Education programme. Through our Pupil Equity Group we will consult with our pupils about the 'Cost of the School Day' and we will continue to gather views and opinions of our staff and parents on 'The Cost of the School Day' and to involve them in decision making around this.

Targeted: We provide nurture sessions which aim on developing social skills to support our pupils in building positive relationships. During lunch we run a social games club, which is accessible to any pupil who is finding lunch times difficult or who are finding it difficult to form friendships with their peers. Pupils have positive relationships with all adults in school and are able to discuss any friendship difficulties or poverty-related bullying during their One Trusted Adult conversations.

Learning at School:

Universal: Pupils at Linlithgow Primary School do not pay for any core learning activities. We stock each classroom with a full range of stationary items at the start of the school year to ensure that no child is disadvantaged. We also provide free access to our school supply of stationary resources so that staff can access these when they need them, in order to meet the needs of the children in their class. As we encourage BYOD, digital devices are provided to all pupils to further enhance their learning opportunities.

Targeted: Planning meetings, Individual Education Plans (IEP) and learning reviews are held regularly to ensure bespoke learning targets are provided to support our children with additional learning support.

School Trips:

Universal: School trips are often planned in advance to ensure our families are notified in a timely manner. All pupils have the opportunity to attend residential experiences throughout Primary School, these trips can be paid up over time. We subsidise trips and excursions for all pupils, from our School Fund, where and when we can.

Targeted: We always cover the full cost of trips and excursions for those families or children who need this support. We currently have in place a 'Pay it Forward' initiative whereby donated funding is used towards reducing school trip costs. After consultation with pupils, staff and parents/carers our Participatory Budget is used to subsidise trips and excursions.

Eating at School:

Universal: We provide a free breakfast club each morning, which is attended by up to 60 children on any one day. All children in P1-5 receive free school lunch each day. Our 'cashless' lunch system ensures that there is no stigma for any child in P6-7 who receives free school meals.

Targeted: For those children that do not have a snack or come to school hungry, we provide a small selection of snack items in our school office, which we discretely give. We have a community sharing shelf, which is accessible throughout the week to all families who are requiring additional food, cleaning products or hygiene products etc. Our families are able to request specific items anonymously by completing a Forms link. To further support our families, staff are able to signpost our families to FORT and are able to assist with referrals where required.

School Clubs:

Universal: We continue to extend our after school clubs programme, as part of our wider curriculum. This session, most of our clubs are free, as most clubs are either led by staff or parent volunteers to help reduce costs.

Targeted: We are monitoring the attendance of pupils at all clubs, to ensure that our children in Q1 and Q2 have full access and are attending. We actively try to encourage and support our most disadvantaged or vulnerable pupils to attend an after-school club. This session we aim to provide some extra-curricular activities either in the mornings or during lunch time eliminate transport difficulties after school.

Home Learning:

Universal: We have modified our approach to homework this session to ensure that we take a flexible approach to meet the needs of all families. Our homework takes the form of a grid system, where most activities (bar reading and spelling) are optional. Our home learning is shared both digitally and by paper copy. We encourage and support children and families to complete homework together.

Targeted: We provide additional support for children in school, to complete home learning, where this cannot be done at home.

Events:

Universal & Targeted: In line with national guidance, all of our curriculum activities are free of charge for all pupils/families. We try, where possible, to make most of our 'wider events' free of charge including all family learning events and 'end of year' sports/fun events. We only hold one or two charity events each session e.g. dress down day for Children in Need, and we invite donations only on these days.

Staff Team:

Universal: All our staff have a good understanding and knowledge of the children and families in our school. As a staff team we are committed to reducing the cost of the school day and decreasing the poverty related attainment gap. Staff try to ensure when planning learning experiences and opportunities they aim to reduce any costs to parents where possible.

Targeted: Staff are available to our families to support and signpost to help that is available. We have positive working partnerships with multiple agencies who are able to offer support to individuals when required. Working together with our staff team we have established a volunteer of Parent Equity Representatives and a Pupil Equity Group. The role of both groups are to help to support the school through various projects to help reduce the cost of the school day.

Issue Identified	Baseline Information	Desired outcomes	Interventions	Impact	Next Steps
Q1 and Q2 pupils attending afterschool clubs	Monitoring the number of Q1 and Q2 children accessing afterschool clubs. 30% of Q1/Q2 pupils attended at least 1 afterschool club	Majority of afterschool clubs to be offered free of charge. Increase the number of Q1 and Q2 pupils attending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Afterschool Clubs run by school staff - Afterschool Clubs run by parent volunteers. - Afterschool clubs are paid through school fund where possible. - Some clubs, where possible, to be run in the morning or during lunch time. 	<p>-Almost all children are able to access afterschool clubs.</p> <p>-An increase in Q1 and Q2 pupils attending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase promotion of free Afterschool Clubs and the benefits of attending through monthly newsletter.