



**St Charles
Primary
School**



**The Cost of the
School Day
Position Statement**



Context:

More than 1 in 4 children across Scotland are officially recognised as living in poverty. Consequently, St Charles Primary School continues to monitor the resources pupils need for school and the cost of the school day. The purpose of this is to ensure that pupils are not at risk of missing out on opportunities nor feel in any way disadvantaged, excluded or unhappy. Staff are sensitive to the issues and challenges that low income families face. All staff are reminded to be aware of 'hidden poverty'. Parents are encouraged to inform the head teacher if they are experiencing financial difficulty in any matter relating to the school in the strictest confidence.

Key Principles:

- To poverty-proof access to the curriculum.
- To mitigate against the effects of the costs of the school day by active intervention.
- To ensure that no pupil's access to school life is determined by, nor precluded by, poverty/low income.

Examples of Direct Intervention:

- Support with the provision of uniform including blazers, trousers, shirts, blouses, skirts and all types of PE Kit.
- Toiletries.
- Subsidised trips/visits of a curricular nature including supporting pupils who might otherwise not be able to attend.
- Breakfast/Lunches.
- Free access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities.
- Transport for homework club.
- If representing the school at extracurricular activities, all clubs are free.
- Operating a Uniform Bank to provide blazers, blouses, shirts, trousers and jumpers.
- Provision of support for identified, selected curricular costs and with specific support to access the curriculum.
- Foodbank referrals and SVDP referrals.
- Fun events have a flat fee of £1 and pupils who cannot afford it are given free entry.

Staff are also involved in:

- Monitoring the overall wellbeing of all pupils.
- Promoting Clothing Grants/ Free School Meals and EMA to Parents & Pupils.
- Promote Free School Meals and support the completion of the FSM forms
- Donating to local food banks.
- The provision of a free Breakfast Club
- Christmas hampers to identified individuals.
- The provision of IT.

Next Steps:

- All staff should be aware of the potential impact of poverty or low income on every pupil's educational experience.
- Pupils/parents/carers are asked to let staff know if they are experiencing difficulty in financing aspects of the school day if the challenge is transient or recurrent or persistent.
- Parents/carers who find themselves unable to financially support their children for whatever the reason are asked to contact the head teacher, in strictest confidence, with a view to enabling all pupils to receive their entitlement to as full and as enriching a school experience as possible.
- Increase poverty awareness among all young people.