



St. John the Baptist Primary School
and Nursery Class

Cost of the School Day
Position Statement



At St. John the Baptist Primary School and Nursery Class 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 Events, Clubs and Home Learning.

Support for Families

We encourage parents and carers who may be experiencing financial challenges or difficulties to contact South Lanarkshire Council's Community Wellbeing Helpline team and Money Matters Advice Services who provide free and confidential advice on a range of matters such as:

- Identifying benefits which parents or carers may be entitled to, including Free School Meals, Clothing Grants, Education Maintenance Allowance and other welfare benefits
- Assisting in crisis situations such as having no money for food, gas or electricity
- Arranging referrals to other services including Money Matters Advice Services for benefit and debt advice and assistance.

Uniform

Nursery

Our current uniform consists of red polo shirt and/or red sweatshirt. Families can purchase uniforms from **logoxpress**, our preferred uniform provider by ordering online. As we do not insist on badged polo shirts or sweatshirts uniform can also be purchased at any appropriate retail outlet.

Primary

Our current uniform consists of light blue shirts or light blue polo shirts, navy jumpers or sweatshirts and dark grey skirts, shorts or trousers. Families can purchase uniforms from **logoxpress** (our preferred uniform provider) by ordering online. As we do not insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts uniform can also be purchased at any appropriate retail outlet. When covid mitigations allow, we will display pre-loved uniforms at parent events such as Curriculum and Parents' Evenings and by hosting a pre-loved uniform stall at our annual Summer Fete. We will also continue to host representatives from Money Matters be present at some parent events to raise awareness for all families including those who may be experiencing poverty, to promote the range of benefits and entitlements available. Our Parent Council has produced an informative booklet entitled **Supporting our Local Community** which is available on the school website.

Travel

The majority of our children travel to school by walking or by car. Transport is provided for some pupils by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean some primary children are unable to attend after school clubs. If this is an issue we work closely with our community partners,

Active Schools and the St Vincent de Paul charity, to access funding for transport and club fees if appropriate. Whenever possible we provide lunch time activities as well as after school.

Learning

Children at St. John the Baptist Primary School and Nursery Class do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Stationery is provided and children do not need to bring their own equipment. We currently provide materials for pupils if they need it for any craft or technology homework. Pupil Equity Funding is used in our Nursery-Primary 1 Transition Programme by providing all new Primary 1 children with stationery and suggested learning activities to promote inclusion of quality. Every session our Primary Advent and Lenten homework links to our Eco School Award whenever possible as we will encourage families to only use recycled materials.

Friendships

Our strong pastoral care and knowledge of our Nursery and Primary children, ensures that if any pupil ever experienced poverty-related bullying they have a way of reporting this in confidence. We will continue to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our Rights Made Real Programme which is reinforced regularly. In addition, our Pupil Leadership Team also lead an annual SPARKS Session whereby we consult with our pupils about the cost of the day. We will also continue to consult with the Parent Council and gather the views of our staff and will continue to involve them in decision making around this.

School Trips

We encourage the Nursery and each Primary class to undertake at one interdisciplinary topic related outdoor trip each year. Following South Lanarkshire Council's procedures, we will plan each visit and ensure that families receive value for money by researching and procuring the best transport costs and by seeking external funding whenever possible. Pre-covid the average cost of trips for pupils was £10. Whenever possible we will continue to use money raised by our Parent Council to subsidise the cost of school trips.

We do not have a policy for families with more than one child but we know our families well and support them on an individual basis when necessary.

Eating at school

Our Breakfast Club runs daily and provides the option of a free hot or cold breakfast for all children. From January 2022 all children in Primary 1-5 are eligible for free school meals. This information is regularly advertised in our Newsletter and via social media. We also provide information and support with limited literacy skills to complete online forms.

Fun Events

St. John the Baptist Primary School and Nursery Class recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added financial pressure on to families. We 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, the Parent Council and the School Leadership Team. This is done on an annual basis and whenever possible included in our Annual Events Calendar which is issued to parents every August and displayed on our school website.

When families cannot afford for their child to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by using funds provided by the Parent Council or the St. Vincent de Paul charity. We ensure that this is highly confidential and the individual children have no knowledge of this.

The nursery and school fundraise in a variety of ways. Our Pupil Leadership Team organise all of our Dress Down Days which include a range of themes with a donation of what you can afford or a donation to a local foodbank. This is voluntary and no child is under pressure to come to school wearing uniform on these days because they cannot afford a donation.

School Clubs

We host a wide variety of lunchtime and after school clubs for Primary children. Whenever possible we try not to charge for clubs but costs do incur when clubs are provided by visiting specialists. Families in receipt of free school meals receive reduced rates or no cost so that children can attend their chosen club. Almost all equipment is provided by the school or visiting specialist and we sensitively support families who require financial assistance.

Home Learning

We ensure that any homework activity can be completed by all pupils no matter their family circumstances by, when possible, providing Homework Clubs and computers at lunchtime for any child who has limited access to information technology at home. We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by linking our Eco Schools Programme to any technology or craft activities or by asking for one piece of family homework at Advent and Lent.

Our School Improvement Plan includes an Equity priority linked to the cost of the school day. Regular reference is made to the Child Poverty Action Group website for updated information on available support. 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.