



## Loch Primary School

### Cost of the School Day Position Statement

2022-2023



At Loch Primary School we pride ourselves as having a nurturing, happy, welcoming, inclusive, achieving and respectful school ethos. We always aim to ensure that all pupils, parents/carers, families, staff and visitors to our school feel welcomed and supported. Our school vision is 'TEAM LOCH - Together Everyone Achieves More; Learning Opportunities Create Happiness' and we promote the message that 'we are all in this together' so that all stakeholders feel a part of our school. We recognise the need to reduce the 'Cost of the School Day' for all our pupils and this is always at the forefront of our planning. We examine the School Day through the following headings: Uniform, Travel, Learning/Home Learning, Friendships, School Trips, Eating at School, School Events and School Clubs. Detailed below are our aims to reduce the 'Cost of the School Day' for families.

#### Uniform

Our current uniform is a white shirt, tie, navy sweatshirt/cardigan, navy trouser/skirt/pinafore and gold polo shirt. Families can purchase uniforms from [www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com](http://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com). We do not insist on or require badged sweatshirts/polo shirts and these can be purchased from local shops including supermarkets. Parents on certain benefits can access a clothing grant to help with school uniform costs. There is information about entitlement to clothing grants and how to apply on the SLC website ([https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education\\_benefits/159/school\\_clothing\\_grants\\_and\\_free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals)).

We encourage and greatly accept donations of any school uniform items such as polo shirts, jumpers, shirts, cardigans, trousers, skirts and pinafores that children may have grown out of that are in good condition for our school uniform donation box. Families who require support with uniform are encouraged to contact the school and we will do our best to help. St. Anthony's Parish Food Bank also has a uniform bank that families can access, you do not need to be referred for this service.

#### Travel

The majority of our children travel to school by car or by foot. We actively encourage walking, cycling or 'parking and striding' to school in order to minimise congestion. Families with children aged 5 years old and over are encouraged to apply for free bus travel across Scotland -

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/nec/info/59/young\\_persons\\_free\\_bus\\_travel\\_scheme](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/nec/info/59/young_persons_free_bus_travel_scheme)

## **Learning/Home Learning**

Children at Loch Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Stationary packs are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. We make use of Google Classrooms or paper packs for homework. We encourage families who have no access to ICT equipment, to contact the school and we will do our best to support. Children are provided with support materials and are allowed to borrow equipment if they need it for homework (e.g. paper or pencils). If research is involved in a task, the Class Teachers can provide printed copies of research materials where required. Homework is encouraged on a daily basis as this helps children to build on their learning at home. All children from Primary 1 - Primary 7 are given the opportunity to register for our Junior Librarian programme. This allows pupils to borrow library books to take home and promotes reading for enjoyment. Families who require support with materials/equipment are encouraged to contact the school to discuss help available. Family learning opportunities are also planned to support families and attendance is encouraged.

## **Friendships**

As a nurturing school, all of our pupils are included and our 'Vision, Values and Aims' promotes the very positive message of 'TEAM LOCH' where we all must work together to ensure everyone feels happy, healthy and nurtured within our school. We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. Pupils will be encouraged to share any concerns during our daily nurture and Health and Wellbeing activities. We teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our HWB programme. By providing pupils with free after school clubs, this allows our children to develop positive friendships with other children who attend.

## **School Trips**

Each class aims to have at least one school trip a year. The average cost of trips for pupils is £6-£10. We aim to remove the cost by funding one school trip for each class per year using our PEF budget. For trips which cost more, including residential trips, we will aim to give as much notice and financial support as possible to allow for payment plans to be established. Families are encouraged to contact the school if support is required.

## **Eating at School**

All pupils from Primary 1- Primary 5 are entitled to a free school meal. The menu can be accessed via our school website or on the SLC website

(<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/primary-menu>).

Families are encouraged to apply for Free School Meal Entitlement from enrolment in Primary 1. Information on how to apply for Free School Meals is available on the SLC website ([https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education\\_benefits/159/school\\_clothing](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/159/school_clothing))

[grants and free school meals](#)).

Within our school we also have a free breakfast club which is offered to all Primary 1 - Primary 7 pupils. Parents/carers are asked to complete a breakfast club request form prior to their child attending.

## School Events

At Loch Primary School we recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families due to the cost. We currently 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, pupils and parents/carers. No child will ever be excluded from an event due to financial restraints and we will always work with families to support this. Fundraising events are carefully planned throughout the session to ensure these do not add pressure to families. We understand that not all families are able to contribute and no family will be pressurised to do so. A school events calendar ensures that we are not asking too much of parents/carers at the one time.

## School Clubs

At Loch Primary School we offer a wide range of clubs such as football, Bikeability, netball, dance, Bridgeton Burns Competition preparation, tennis and multi-sports. All of these clubs are free of charge for everyone to attend. All equipment required for the clubs is provided by the school. Specialised after school clubs are also funded using our PEF budget, meaning these too are also free for all children to attend.

We are very clear that the 'Cost of the School Day' is an area that requires constant vigilance. We will continue to look for ways to reduce and remove costs as much as possible for families, including:

- Reducing/removing the cost of events, such as class outings and clubs, by using our Pupil Equity Funding.
- Encouraging all stakeholders to be involved in our Participatory Budget Group to decide on how 5% of our Pupil Equity Funding should be used to support our learners.
- Providing services to support positive home-school links including having an allocated Barnardo's worker on site.
- Encouraging as much parental engagement as possible, promoting strong home-school links.
- Working with families to help raise attainment for all pupils.

