



LOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY CLASS

COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY POLICY



Reducing the Cost of the School Day and tackling Child Poverty is a top priority within South Lanarkshire Council. The importance of this is highlighted in the Education Resources plan and Local Child Poverty Action Plan. Across Scotland almost 1 in 4 children and young people are living in poverty, most of whom are in a family with at least one working parent. We understand that living in poverty is hard and can affect all aspects of a child or young person's wellbeing, achievement and attainment. While our school cannot change the financial situation anyone finds themselves in, we can ensure that what happens in our school doesn't negatively affect the pockets of our families.

The Child Poverty Action Group commissioned and produced **The Cost of the School Day Toolkit** to assist schools and Parent Councils with ideas to alleviate some of these concerns. While it is clear that issues surrounding child poverty are societal, not just related to school, we also have our own part to play in working to alleviate some of the issues faced by families who are confronted with the daily dilemmas of providing support for their child's education experience. *"Children who are unable to participate in the same activities as their peers will very often not feel included and this can have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. The key is finding possible solutions to ensure all children have the same opportunities."* (CPAG, 2018)

At Loch Primary School and Nursery Class we pride ourselves as having a nurturing, happy, welcoming, inclusive, achieving and respectful ethos and we always aim to ensure that all children, parents/carers, families, staff and visitors to our school and nursery feel welcomed and supported. Our whole school and nursery 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 and nursery. We recognise the need to reduce the 'Cost of the School Day' for all of our children and this is always at the forefront of our planning to ensure that money plays no part in how our children achieve and experience their education. We want all of our children to have the same opportunities and expectations in life. No child/young person will miss out on any aspect of their school and nursery life because of a lack of money. We will continue to look for ways to reduce costs as much as possible for families, including:

- Reducing/removing the cost of events by using our nursery funds.
- Providing services to support positive home-school links including working with our allocated Barnardo's Family Support Worker.
- Encouraging as much parental engagement as possible, promoting strong home-school links.
- Working with families to help raise attainment and achievement for all children.

At our nursery we ensure all our staff are Poverty Aware. All staff receive an annual update on Cost of the School Day each August. At the start of each year our nursery will issue a School Events Planner to our parents/carers so that they can see immediately when there will be events which may have a cost. This will allow families to budget if they are able, or to contact the nursery if they require assistance. **If any parent/carer requires help in paying for anything in nursery, they should contact Miss Simpson (HT) who is our Cost of the School Day Lead.** Any requests will be supported with complete confidentiality and compassion. If any family is struggling we would always encourage them to speak to us so that we can try and point them in the right direction for the most appropriate help. If your family is under stress this will be affecting how your child is managing at nursery so it is important that we can work together.

We examine the school and nursery day through the following headings; Getting Dressed, Travelling, Learning, Friendships, School Excursions, Fun Events, Eating, and Home Learning. Detailed on the next page are our aims to reduce the 'Cost of the School Day' for families.

Getting Dressed

Following consultation with parents/carers regarding the introduction of a nursery uniform, the majority voted in favour of this. Our uniform consists of a plain yellow polo shirt which can be purchased from most supermarkets and some high street stores. This can be worn with leggings/trousers/shorts. We encourage and greatly accept donations of clothing items that children may have grown out of that are in good condition for our nursery clothing box. Parents/carers are encouraged to talk to the nursery staff if they require support with clothing and we will do our best to help.

Learning

Children at Loch PS Nursery Class do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Children are provided with all materials they require at nursery. Children do not need to bring any of their own resources or equipment from home.

Home Learning

Home learning activities such as 'Rhyme and Book of the Month' are encouraged at Loch PS Nursery Class as this helps children to build on their learning at home. We aim to ensure that home learning activities do not have any financial implications for families. Families who require support with materials/equipment are encouraged to contact the nursery to discuss help available. Children are provided with support materials and are allowed to borrow equipment if they need it for home learning activities (e.g. paper or pencils).

Friendships

As a nurturing nursery, all of our children 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 nursery. Each child is allocated a keyworker group with an adult(s) and a group of peers. Group time provides positive opportunities to develop friendships. All children have access to all areas within the nursery and are encouraged to build positive relationships with all of their peers. Our 'Bucket Filling' programme and our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Blueprint' actively encourages this. We ensure that any child or parent/carer experiencing poverty related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. Children are encouraged to share any concerns during our daily nurture and Health and Wellbeing activities.

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School Excursions

Our nursery aims to offer a range of fun activities throughout the year, including parties, events, visitors in and trips out of nursery including within the local area and beyond. Any nursery outing is arranged in consultation with parents/carers and the cost of this is considered to ensure the involvement of all children. We aim to give as much notice and financial support as possible. Families are encouraged to contact the nursery if support is required.

Eating

All children attending a full-time placement at Loch PS Nursery Class are entitled to a healthy snack and a free school meal. The menu can be accessed via our school website or on the SLC website (<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/nursery-lunch-menu>). Children also have the opportunity to participate in baking and other food related learning experiences during the nursery day which are all funded by the nursery. Loch PS and Nursery Class also supports the local foodbank at St. Anthony's Church and families are able to seek support without a referral.

Travelling

The majority of our children travel to nursery by car or by foot. We actively encourage walking, cycling or 'parking and striding' to nursery to minimise congestion. This also promotes healthy living.

Fun Events

At Loch PS Nursery Class 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 to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. As with trips, our fun events are planned by staff, children 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.