



Cost of the School Day Action Statement 2024-2025

Statement of action to address the cost of Our Lady's Primary School's school day

We currently have the following measures in place which help our families with school costs and make sure that our children can participate and learn.

Financial Calendar: We provide our families with a copy of the financial calendar for the year ahead. This provides information about the different events that are happening throughout the year where there might be an additional cost to families. In cases where meeting these additional costs are difficult for families, we find ways of helping to reduce or completely eliminate the costs.

Uniform: We carefully consider our uniform supplier each year to ensure that we are providing low cost/durable uniform at a good price for our families. Uniforms can be ordered through the school (forms go out in May) or online, and we also hold a small stock in school. We have a good selection of 'nearly new' uniform items which are available to families at all times (please speak to any member of staff if you require anything). We support families to apply for the 'School Clothing Grant'.

Travel: We have no children who require bus transportation to get to school each day. We are aiming to support all pupils at Our Lady's to get a free bus pass. Mrs Lesley Morrison our Parent Council Chair is able to support families with this. We use school funds to reduce the cost of bus transportation for school trips.

Resources: 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. There is no requirement for children to bring their own resources to school.

Trips: All trips are carefully considered and the cost is, where possible, subsidised from the school fund. We organise a wide variety of experiences for our children throughout the year. We use school funds to reduce the cost of bus transportation for school trips.

Eating: We provide a free breakfast club each morning. All children in P1-5 receive free school lunches each day. Our 'cashless' lunch system ensures that there is no stigma for any child in P7 who receives free school meals. We always have a supply of healthy snacks available for children who would like it. The children are provided with a healthy snack choice and a drink of water or milk (if they are entitled to free milk or if parents have chosen to order it for them).

Clubs: We aim to provide every child with the opportunity to attend a before / after or lunchtime school club as part of our wider curriculum. All clubs will be free to attend. We monitor our quintile 1 children's participation in these clubs to ensure that they are accessing and enjoying them.

Homework: We do not have mandatory homework in Our Lady's. However during our Family Learning Events, we provide our families with information and advice on how they can support and enhance their child's learning experiences at home.

Events: (e.g. dress down days etc.): We hold dress down days at the end of each month, where children have the opportunity (without obligation) to bring a small donation to help raise school funds.

Outdoor Learning Experiences: All children have the opportunity to take part in regular outdoor learning sessions in the woodlands at the back of our school. These are planned for by the teachers. All children can access water-proof clothing from the school to use when outdoor learning if they do not have any. Throughout the school year we have other opportunities for outdoor experiences

Family Support: All families receive regular communication about free events in the community. We have an OLPS Cost of the School Day and Community Support Information Sway this signposts families to groups which can support them. We work with Stoneyburn and Bents Future Vision Group (SBFVG) to enable families to have access to free seasonal items e.g. Christmas Presents throughout the year. We are able to refer families to St Vincent Di Paul for financial aid towards the cost of the school camp. We can provide support for families who wish to apply for a clothing grant or be referred to the 'School Bank West Lothian'. We can refer families to the 'The FORT system', 'Clothes Bank' and 'Food Bank'.

Attitudes towards poverty: We work closely with the West Lothian Excellence and Equity Team to ensure we are acting on the most up to date guidance regarding equity for all of our children. We are constantly exploring the issues surrounding poverty through our Cost of the School Day Action Plan and Pupil Participatory Budget Model. Learner voice is an intrinsic part of our curriculum where they discuss and take action on certain topics including the United Nations Rights of the Child, ECO issues and make decisions about the spending of the Pupil Participatory Budget.

Staff Team: Staff have a good awareness and knowledge and understanding of the children and families in our school. Our staff are committed to helping reduce the cost of the school day and to narrow the poverty related attainment gap. We are mindful of this when planning learning experiences and aim to mitigate costs to parents where possible. Our staff are provided with regular training opportunities to further develop their understanding of the issues surrounding poverty.