



Carluke Learning Community - Cost of the School Day Policy

Rationale

In Carluke Learning Community, we strive to ensure that every child should have equity of opportunity to educational experiences. To ensure this occurs each of our schools understands its own unique context and families in order to provide targeted support as required. For further information on Child Poverty Action Group please look up <http://www.cpag.org.uk/costoftheschoolday>

Aims

1. Ensure all children and young people have access to meaningful learning experiences, which enable them to develop an understanding of the different types of poverty, and how they affect learning and daily lives.
2. Enable children and young people to be empowered and make meaningful changes, which benefit learners and families.
3. Support children, young people and families to access supports and financial advice.
4. Offer a collective and ongoing commitment to equity by listening to and acting upon what children and parents say.
5. Support the Government's vision for Scotland's society and economy to be stronger with families feeling empowered.

Understanding Poverty - More than one in five (210,000) children across Scotland are officially recognised as living in poverty. Insufficient household income can mean that some children and young people don't have the resources needed for school and can't easily afford the essential items required to attend school e.g. uniform, transport, resources. It is therefore essential that all school within Carluke Learning Community look to address equity as part of their annual priorities.

Planning - Teachers plan each session very carefully and use Curriculum for Excellence outcomes as a guide to ensure that children access a broad and stimulating curriculum. Across the curriculum teachers use a variety of contexts to stimulate discussion and develop understanding of poverty in Scotland and across the world in line with our work on sustainable development goals and UNCRC.

Our Commitment

Uniform - Parents/ carers can purchase uniform from any local shop/ supermarket. Uniform does not need to have school badges. We encourage parents/ carers to apply for all appropriate benefits and offer uniform swaps for good quality used items. We direct parents to South Lanarkshire's website using [this link, for further details on how to apply](#).

At different times of the school year we host uniform recycling events, pop up shops and clothing swaps where good quality uniform, dressing up costumes and Christmas jumpers can be collected.

Lunches - We encourage and direct parents to South Lanarkshire's web site below to apply for free school meals. We remind parents/ carers to do this on an annual basis and offer support to complete the online form if a parent/carer is having trouble. The school has a supply of fruit/ snacks, which are available for any child who does not have a snack with them at breaktime. [Click here for SLC information](#).

Curriculum - All equipment required to fully engage in all curricular activities is provided by the school. Learners at times may want to bring their own pencils/ pens but each classroom is fully equipped with all necessary resources.

After School Clubs - We have a wide range of after school clubs running as well as lunchtime clubs. We do not charge for after school clubs.

Outings and Residential Trips - our Parent Councils/School Funds and/or PEF money subsidise the cost of outings. If a parent/carer is concerned about the cost of any extracurricular activity, we ask for the parent to discuss their individual concern with their Head Teacher.

Sanitary Provision - Throughout our schools we have free sanitary products available to be used in school or taken home.

Events - Across the school year we look at ways to support our local and wider community. We ensure that we have a balance of opportunities to allow learners to donate their time/ qualities rather than asking for money.

To ensure we continue to meet the needs of all families within Carluke Learning Community, this policy will be reviewed regularly as part of our ongoing commitment to reduce the cost of the school day.