



June 2019



# Crosshouse Primary School Cost of The School Day Draft Position Statement



**THE COST OF  
THE SCHOOL DAY**



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At Crosshouse Primary School 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, Clubs and Home learning.

**Uniform** – our current uniform is red polo shirt or shirt, school tie, navy sweatshirt/jumper / cardigan, navy trousers/skirt. Families can purchase uniforms from Scotcrest Uniforms via their website or via the school office. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts. Next session we intend to update our practice by offering a uniform swap at Parent & Child consultations and making it clear in our literature and on the website that uniform does not need to be branded.

**Travel** – the majority of our children travel to school by car or foot. A number attend after school clubs. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have activities at lunch time as well as after school.

**Learning** – children at Crosshouse Primary do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Pens and pencils are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. We currently have a procedure for young people to use school computers before school to allow them to complete online homework. Jotters/paper is provided for other homework activities. Cost of the school day in respect of learning will be consulted upon in 2019-20.

#### **Friendships**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our health and wellbeing programme. We intend to gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and involve them in decision making around this.

#### **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by class teachers to link with class learning. The average cost of trips for pupils is £7 and is often subsidised by our school fund or our fundraising committee. Young people in receipt of Free School Meals do not need to pay for the residential trip in Primary 7. Funding for and provision of school trips will be consulted upon in 2019-20.

#### **Eating at school**

All Primary 1-3 pupil receive a free school meal. Last school year we 20.5% of pupils were in receipt of Free School Meals benefit. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we try to reduce this by the use of coloured bands and in 2019-20 the use of Parent Pay will roll out. We believe that not all pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. In order to increase the percentage we intend to letter all parents in June each year to highlight this benefit.

#### **Fun Events**

Crosshouse Primary recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We intend to 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 carefully planned by our Committees in consultation with the Head Teacher. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by, where appropriate, funding their participation via the school fund or by giving them jobs which support the event. We currently fund raise via Parent Council events, occasional dress down days and through the selling of school photographs however we understand that not all families are able to contribute so we will consult on other ways to involve all children in fundraising.

#### **School Clubs**

At Crosshouse Primary we have a wide range of clubs however we do not charge for participation. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g badminton racquet, football boots, and we do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these by providing the necessary equipment (except in the case of football boots). Our football club will consult with parents on how to support all children with an interest to be able to participate.

#### **Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by providing jotters, paper and daily access to IT equipment. We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils who may struggle with regards to cost and we will consult on this with pupils in session 2019-20. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy.

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. In our Improvement Plan for 2019/20 we will be focusing on

- Raising awareness among parents and pupils
- Consulting on home learning, core learning, school trips and football costs
- Develop poverty related lessons within HWB curriculum

This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day

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