



Cost of the School Day Action Statement: Williamston Primary School 2024-25



Our school community is aware of the effects of the Cost of the School Day and how this impacts on the context of our school and our young people.

Uniform: School uniform is polo shirt, sweat shirt, or shirt and tie with unbranded being encouraged. Unbranded shorts/jogging trousers and footwear are encouraged for PE with a plain white t-shirt/polo shirt. Uniform can be ordered online and we also hold a small stock in school, giving all new families joining the school mid-session school uniform for their start with us. We have a supply of outdoor clothing so that all children are comfortable when learning outdoors. We work in partnership with families in need of support to allocate uniform based on specific needs. Through the promotion of our 'Winted' initiative, we have a selection of nearly new uniform and casual clothing items which are made available to families at no extra cost, as well as seasonal items such as Halloween costumes and Christmas jumpers.

Travel and Trips: We give consideration to all trips to ensure that costs are kept down, with a particular focus on maximising our local area within walking distance, reducing additional transport costs. Where possible, learning experiences may be brought into school minimising travel costs. Trip cost may be paid in instalments over time. Free spaces on all residential trips are available for some young people in receipt of free school meals. We plan residential trips in advance and have saving options to spread the cost. We monitor the number of trips, costs and year groups/families and respond accordingly, supporting identified families. We raise awareness of the opportunities fund for residential/trips with families in the school, with a limit on the costs wherever we can.

Resources: Classrooms have essential supplies such as pencils/calculators etc. to borrow throughout the school year to ensure that no child is disadvantaged. We also provide free access to our school supply of stationary items for all staff in order to meet the needs of the pupils.

Eating: We promote Free School Meals and share information for all parents about it at various times throughout the year. This is also highlighted through our school website. Cashless catering means that children can order meals free from any stigma. We provide a free breakfast club each morning.

Clubs: Extra-curricular clubs are free. Lunchtime clubs may be run by P7 House captains supported by staff and are free for our younger pupils.

Digital Equity: We provide families with digital tools to enable access when required for learning at home. All learners have access to devices in classes ensuring equity for all.

Homework: Our approaches to homework ensure we have a flexible approach to meeting the needs of all families. Homework is generally set online with identified families supported with IT access and any other resources that they may not have at home during school time. We will not ask for any work to be printed at home.

Events (e.g. charity events, dress down days etc.): There is a donation-only approach to fundraising. We limit the number of charity and other fundraising events and spread them throughout the year, with no more than two per school year. Wherever possible, we make some of our events free of charge.

Supports: Should families require specialist financial advice or support, FORT (FAST ONLINE REFERRAL AND TRACKING) can be used.

The West Lothian Cost of Living Hub provides further information for families struggling financially. This includes help with school costs and can be found here:-
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/costofliving>

Our school has information on our App of what money we will be asking for and when, such as residential, so parents can plan out their budget. Further information about support can be found via the following link:-

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/helpwithcosts>

This has been prepared in Consultation with Williamston Savers group, HT and Parents