



# St. Bride's Primary School & Nursery Class

## Cost of the School Day Policy



## Cost of the School Day Position Statement

### St. Bride's Primary School and Nursery Class, South Lanarkshire Council

At St. Bride's Primary School and Nursery Class 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, Attendance, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs, Home learning and Initiatives.

**Uniform** - Our current uniform is navy. Pupils are encouraged to wear navy skirts/trousers and a navy sweatshirt with a light blue shirt/ light blue polo shirt and school tie. We encourage the wearing of black school shoes and a black/navy jacket. For P.E., a light blue polo shirt or plain blue top and navy/black shorts are required. Families can purchase uniforms from Logoxpres. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. Uniforms can be bought at local supermarkets.

**Travel** - the majority of our children travel to school by car/walking. Transport is provided for some pupils by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have morning and lunch time activities as well as after school.

#### **Attendance**

We are aware that some pupils may not attend school if there is a cost to the school day, especially during school events such as Enterprise Day. In St. Bride's we are part of a **Test for Change Group** in the Local Authority to ensure that no pupil is absent due to poverty. A member of SLT tracks attendance throughout the year and support is offered if required.

#### **Learning** -

At St. Bride's Primary School 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. Pupils can access ICT equipment, if necessary, during school day.

#### **Friendships and Attitudes to Poverty**

#### **We have gathered the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day.**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. As a school we take part in **Challenge Poverty Week**. We also teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our Health and Wellbeing programme, Financial Education and during our whole school Assembly.

At break time pupils can take some fresh fruit or a snack from our dining hall.

#### **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by teaching staff and SLT. The average cost of trips for pupils varies, but we try to ensure **the cost is kept low**. We try to reduce the cost by fundraising, using money from our School Funds and support from our Parent Council. External funding is used where possible e.g. supported funding from places like Glasgow Science Centre. We do not have a policy for families with more than one child, however, we support them by reducing the cost where



possible by having family prices. For our P7 Residential Trip, we have a staged payment process spread over a year and some financial support is available from our Parent Council and SVDP. All pupils who live in SIMD 1 and 2 and receive FME do not pay for school trips or their Primary 7 residential. We aim to reduce costs of 'Local trips' by subsidising with school funds or Parent Council support. For longer trips we give maximum advance notice and put a staged payment plan in place at no more than £20 a month. Families who need support are encouraged to speak to the school. No child will ever not be given the opportunity due to financial restraints.

### Eating at school

We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch, but our **new Parentportal system has assisted with reducing this stigma**. We estimate that the majority of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. In order to increase that percentage we intend to consult next session with our pupils and families for ways to help support the uptake of FME.

We also have a free Breakfast Club in our school, which runs every morning from 8.15-8.45am. Any child in the school is welcome to attend and receive a healthy breakfast before the school day begins. We also have a new 'Toast on the Go' system for children who attend after Breakfast Club times.

### Fun Events

St. Bride's Primary School recognises that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We currently 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 planned by teaching staff, SMT and our Parent Council, to ensure they are spread evenly throughout the year. When young people cannot afford to take part in any activity we ensure they can still experience it by covering the cost through School Fund, Parent Council Support Fund and SVDP. We currently fund raise by taking part in a variety of activities e.g. sports activities, sales of goods, Enterprise, and understand that not all families are able to contribute so we ask for donations and do not insist. We also incorporate other activities throughout the school year that do not involve a cost e.g. World Book Day, Party Days & Health and Sports Week.

### School Clubs

At St. Bride's Primary School, we have a variety of clubs throughout the school day e.g. Lunchtime Reading club, a wide variety of Sports Clubs, Mini Vinnies and Art Club. We do not normally charge for a young person to take part. For children who receive FME there is no charge, if there was one. Some clubs may require specific equipment e.g. badminton racquet, tennis racket, bike and we do what we can to help families who may not be able to afford these by ensuring we have the correct equipment for pupils to borrow and use. If a pupil feels that there is a reason that they cannot participate because of the lack of a resource/ equipment this should not prove a barrier to taking part and the pupil or parent should approach a member of staff in confidence.

### Home Learning

Our aim is to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by e.g. lending equipment if needed, providing craft materials etc. We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment



for pupils who may struggle, however, we ensure that any homework activity can be completed by **all** pupils no matter their family circumstances.

All pupils are given the appropriate resources to ensure they are not disadvantaged when completing homework.

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. All school staff have participated in awareness raising training and we have a focus on:

- Closing the poverty related attainment gap
- Health & Wellbeing as a responsibility for all
- Wider experiences for all pupils
- Raising attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

### **School Initiatives**

Throughout the school year we have many initiatives to ensure no children or families struggle with the cost of the school day:

- Uniform Recycle
- Halloween Costumes
- Support from SVDP and Local Businesses at Christmas time to ensure families have food at Christmas and all children have presents. Some children are also given clothes to wear at school parties
- Support with winter clothing
- Social media is updated to ensure all families are aware of support from the government with links attached

In St. Bride's Primary and Nursery, we pride ourselves on our nurturing and inclusive ethos, as well as our 'Open Door Policy' between SLT and their Families. All Staff build relationships of mutual respect with all pupils and their families to ensure we are 'Getting it Right for all Children' and that everyone is included in the life of St. Bride's, no matter the cost.