

## **Dalserf Primary School**

### **Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

At Dalserf 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.

In creating this statement, a discussion toolkit produced by the Child Poverty Action Group was utilised. Consultation has taken place with the wider parent/carer body and each pupil via a questionnaire; there have been discussions with the Parent Council and also with the Pupil Council; in addition to discussions with Staff.

An annual calendar of school events and costs was created to ensure that cognisance is given to the frequency of events which may incur additional costs to parents, even indirectly.

The cost of the school day was examined using the following categories: Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School Trips, Eating, Fun Events, School Clubs and Home Learning.

#### **Uniform**

Our current uniform is black trousers, sky blue polo shirt or shirt, black jumper. Families can purchase uniforms from Myclothing.com, Scot Crest in Hamilton or Gilmour Sports, Glasgow. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo-shirts and this message is reflected within our School Handbook.

Parent Council help to run a pre-loved uniform shop where donations are sold for a minimal cost, parents/carers will be asked to pay what they think an item is worth with a suggested donation of £1 polo shirt, £2 jumper, skirt, trousers, 50p a tie. To avoid any stigma regarding looking at or wanting to purchase any items, a stock inventory was sent home with each pupil and parents/carers can call the school with their order which is then discretely put into the child's school bag.

#### **Travel**

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

## **Learning**

Children at Dalsarf Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Writing pencils and colouring pens/pencils/crayons are provided. We supply homework jotters for completing work in and diaries for parents/carers to write comments to the class teacher. We do not give homework craft projects to children (e.g make a castle or ship from junk), instead we ask everyone to bring in junk and have a modelling afternoon in class whereby additional materials such as glue, paint, paper etc is all provided.

## **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 financial education.

## **School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year to link with current classroom learning. Only one class trip per year is granted where there is a cost. It is agreed that a trip to see a pantomime will be every two years. The average cost of a trip for pupils is £10. We try to reduce the cost by combining classes for trips when possible.

As much notice is given about trips/events as possible with payments via Parent Pay. Parents/carers who are struggling to pay the full amount are encouraged to contact the school so an agreement can be made. The school will subsidise class trips when funds allow and the Parent Council will contribute towards the residential trip every second year, again when funds allow.

## **Eating at school**

Our school breakfast club is free of charge and open to all pupils. Our attendance averages about 33% of our school roll.

Last school year we had 30% of pupils who were in receipt of Free School Meals. We estimate that approximately all pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. In order to maintain this make regular mention of this in the school newsletter.

Any child who does not have a snack due to poverty related issues is discretely offered one.

## **Fun Events**

Dalserf Primary School recognises that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. There appears to be no poverty-related patterns in attendance and participation in these.

Events such as World Book Day are conveyed as optional dress up or dress down.

We currently hold a Halloween Disco which is attended by almost all pupils. Incorporated in to our pre-loved uniform shop is a costume pre-loved shop and it runs all year.

Christmas Card printing has stopped for all classes after discussions with Parent Council and reviewing the previous uptake.

School photos will continue – parents will continue to order direct with the company.

Monthly Dress Down days will continue, with notice being given at the start of the year about these. Parent Pay is set up to take payments for this however parents have requested that monetary contributions are once again used. There will be no reminders in diaries if a child has not brought their money in. Head Teacher to include regularly in the newsletter about the clothes that are worn on a Dress Down Day – they do not need to be their 'best' clothes as we are still doing a range of activities on these days.

We will no longer ask for House colours/t-shirts to be worn, instead we have bought coloured bibs for the House events.

It was decided that Book Fairs at parents' evenings will continue as it is parental choice if a book is purchased or not but this will be limited to once a year.

Any fundraising events will be spread out and we will continue to be mindful of times of year and also what else is going on within the community too.

We will consider what happens when young people cannot afford to take part in any activity. We currently fund raise by having one annual event and our Christmas Raffle. We understand that not all families are able to contribute.

## **School Clubs**

At Dalserf Primary School we usually have Football and Netball clubs for P5-7. We no longer charge towards the costs of our team buses. Our clubs do not require any equipment from home and school kit is provided for tournaments.

## **Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible providing reading books, jotters and lending stationary when required.

We do not have a policy in the school about lending equipment for pupils as Staff are all aware of the need to ensure homework activities are planned so that each pupil can complete it regardless of circumstance. The use of internet is not regularly asked for, although all parents do have access, however for some their only device for accessing the internet is their mobile phone which is not always practical.

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.