

# COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

As a school we have made the assumption that the everyday cost of living places financial pressure on ALL households, and therefore want to ensure that the additional financial burden that can be associated with the cost of the school day are minimised/removed. Our aim is to provide high quality learning experiences, both within and beyond the classroom, that will have a positive impact on learning, and enhance social, emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, whilst ensuring that the burden of cost is never a barrier to participation for any young person.

## Uniform

We strongly promote the wearing of school uniform. This not only promotes a sense of identity and inclusivity; it also helps parents to keep clothing costs to a minimum. To keep the cost of uniform low we insist that uniform items are unbranded allowing parents/carers to purchase uniform items from any shop including the supermarket. We also gift every young person with a junior school tie in S1. Whilst our S5/6 pupils wear a blazer at an additional cost we actively promote the use of 'pre-loved' blazers where pupils who are leaving donate their blazers back to our school uniform bank. Information is shared with parents on how to claim Clothing Grants and targeted support is given, where necessary, to help parents complete the forms. We also signpost families to the West Lothian Uniform Bank and we use our PEF budget to hold a significant supply of items of school uniform that can be provided to families to replace worn items over the course of the school year. For PE, pupils can wear any tracksuit bottoms/shorts, trainers and t-shirt (other than football colours) they choose. This ensures they can use existing items of sportswear rather than having to buy extra kit specifically for school. The school also holds a supply of PE kit that can be borrowed so all pupils can always participate in PE lessons. School team kits are provided when taking part in official events.

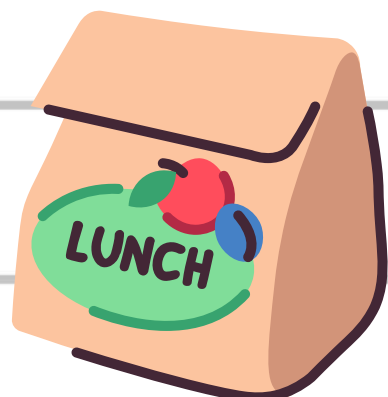


## Materials

Whilst we strongly encourage our learners to bring everything they need to access their learning, we ensure that the school can provide everything that a learner might need without fuss or penalty. This includes pens, pencils, paper, replacement jotters and folders etc. As an AAL (Anywhere, anytime learning) school young people are able to use their own digital devices, such as mobile phones or laptops, to access learning however, every class has a sufficient number of netbooks which can be accessed by learners who opt not to bring their own device. For specialist areas of the curriculum the school provides the additional resources required. This includes specialist art packs for Art & Design and scientific calculators for science and maths. There are also no additional financial costs for pupils studying subjects within Home Economics and CDT.

## Eating at School

Families are supported to apply for Free School Meals if eligible. The school cashless system removes any perceived stigma associated with free school meals. Pupils are actively encouraged to spend their full allocation every day. We offer a breakfast club for identified pupils and snacks are available from our Snack Shack for all pupils at interval and lunch. All pupils who remain in school for a study support session followed by a masterclass session are provided with a hot food snack.





## Extra- Curricular

Participation in all extra-curricular activities are free to all pupils. We can also provide free transport home, using our school minibus, to pupils who are unable to arrange a lift or travel independently using their Young Scot card. All additional kit and equipment for sporting events is also provided.

## Excursions

For as long as we can sustain it, all excursions that form an integral part of the curriculum, and enhance the pupil learning experience, are free to all pupils. This is to ensure that no learner misses out including those who may be experiencing financial hardship but live in higher quintiles. We fund these trips from our School Fund and PEF allocation. All end of year 'Activity Day' excursions are heavily subsidised by the school with young people only expected to pay a nominal amount. Young people, particularly those in quintile 1, are also made aware that if the cost of the trip is still a barrier then they should speak to their Head of House/Trusted Adult who will make arrangements to ensure they can still attend free of charge.



## Digital Support

All learners who do not have access to a digital device at home are able to borrow a school device for the session. This allows access to learning if unable to attend school for any reason or to access homework via Glow.



## Fundraising

All learners who do not have access to a digital device at home are able to borrow a school device for the session. This allows access to learning if unable to attend school for any reason or to access homework via Glow.

