

**Park View Primary School**  
**Cost of the School Day Policy**



**Rationale:**

Park View Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children can fully participate in school life regardless of financial circumstances. We recognise that school-related costs can create barriers to learning and participation for some families. This policy outlines the steps the school will take to reduce financial pressures and promote equity for all students.

**Context:** The "Cost of the School Day" initiative, supported by South Lanarkshire Council, encourages schools to minimise the financial burden on families and ensure no child is excluded from opportunities due to cost. This policy is tailored to the needs of our community; where 54% of our pupils are identified through SIMD and Free School Meals, as living in deprivation.

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**Key Principles:**

**1. Equity and Inclusion:**

- Every child has the right to fully participate in school activities, regardless of their family's financial situation. The school will actively work to identify and remove any financial barriers.

**2. Respect and Confidentiality:**

- We will approach all financial issues with sensitivity and confidentiality. Support will be offered discreetly to ensure no child feels singled out.

**3. Partnership with Families:**

- We will engage with families regularly to understand their needs and concerns regarding the cost of school activities and ensure that our policies reflect the challenges they face.
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**Areas of Focus:**

**1. School Uniform:**

- Park View Primary promotes a simple, low-cost uniform policy. Whilst we have the tartan uniform available from Scot Crest, we also endorse the grey uniform that is widely available from all supermarkets.
- Our uniform 'Swap Shop' is available all year round for all parents and carers to access. Once a year, we send out a Google Form for parents to request pre-loved uniform, so that all pupils are fully equipped for the year ahead in August.

- Families facing financial difficulties can request uniform support confidentially via the school office. We continually advertise this through regular newsletters and emails.
- At various times of the year, when the weather changes, we ensure all children have full access to warm coats and jackets and suitable footwear.
- When new children start school throughout the school year, we always offer pre-loved uniform.
- At Park View we do not request pupils to wear specific PE kit.
- We no longer request pupils to bring indoor shoes to minimise the costs of shoes required for school. We have many pairs of pre-loved indoor and outdoor shoes, should families require it.
- Whilst we encourage full school uniform, all staff are conscious when encouraging this and take a flexible and discrete approach, in case there are financial reasons for a child not wearing full school uniform.

## **2. School Trips and Excursions:**

- The school will ensure that the cost of trips and outings are kept to a minimum and affordable for all families. All trips are subsidised by the school via our Pupil Equity Fund, Parent Partnership and school funds.
- Most years, our school community votes for our Participatory Budget to be allocated to school trips. We all recognise the valuable role school trips play in our children's wider education whilst acknowledging the considerable costs these incur.
- Where trips incur costs, advance notice and flexible payment plans will be offered.
- Families who are unable to afford trips will be supported through school funds, Parent Partnership donations, or grant applications, ensuring no child misses out.
- Through the relationships we build with families, we are able to identify specific families who need our support, and we are able to communicate this in a flexible way that is specific to each family and individual. We have no 'one-size fits all' standard approach to this, as we consider every situation uniquely and know how best to approach this. One example of this, is our P7 residential where we automatically have two separate mailing lists to ensure all PEF identified children pay a smaller amount. We then email specific parents who prefer to communicate via email, or 'catch them' at the school gate, school office etc – whichever way we know suits them best.

## **3. Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs:**

- Extra-curricular clubs will be offered at no cost to all families, with a variety of free activities available throughout the year.
- The schools works closely with the Active Schools Team to provide a full extra curricular timetable for all ages and stages.

- As part of our Working Time Agreement, all staff take on an extra curricular club to widen our free provision.
- Each year, our P7s take part in the Leadership Training provided by Active Schools so that these children can then lunchtime clubs suitable for all – particularly children who do not attend clubs after school.
- Where possible, we work with local organisations to provide a wider variety of clubs so that all interests are catered for.
- **4. Learning Materials and Resources:**
- All essential learning materials, including stationery, books, and digital resources, will be provided free of charge.
- For homework tasks or projects, the school will provide any special materials required to complete assignments, ensuring families do not bear these costs.

#### **5. Fundraising Events:**

- Fundraising activities, such as dress-down days or bake sales, will be organised in a way that does not place undue financial pressure on families.
- We have significantly reduced the amount of dress down days to reduce the financial burden on all families.
- Participation in these events will be voluntary, and no child will be excluded if they cannot contribute. At each of these fundraising events, we always have a specific budget put aside to ensure any child who does not have money, is discretely given their own ‘pocket money’ to spend that day so that they are able to be fully involved and feel like they are contributing and experiencing the same ‘budgeting’ experience that all pupils have at such events.
- When fundraising is necessary, clear communication will be provided, and contributions will be kept as low as possible.

#### **6. School Meals:**

- The school will ensure that all families are aware of their entitlement to free school meals and assist with the application process where necessary.
- For children not eligible for free school meals but facing financial hardship, the school will work with local authorities to explore additional support and ensure that we are sensitive when sending reminder letters regarding school meal debt.
- A free Breakfast Club runs everyday before school.
- The school works closely with the Cook in Charge to identify pupils who would benefit from extra food that may be leftover at lunchtime or from Breakfast club.
- Secure relationships between all staff and pupils, means that we are able to identify pupils who regularly come to school hungry and we aim to ensure that we provide them with toast leftover from Breakfast club or free fruit from the kitchen.

- Where pupils have no snack, they know that they can ask the cook in charge for free fruit and all pupils feel comfortable doing this because of the strong relationships with kitchen staff.

### **P7 Leavers Events**

- As per South Lanarkshire Council policy, Park View PS does not have a 'prom' to ensure that we are actively discouraging expensive outlays at this key transition, especially when P7 parents also have to contribute to P7 residential trips. Instead, we work with pupils to decide on a fun activity/trip, which is subsidised for all.
  - The key events for P7 leavers celebrations are:
    - Leavers Assembly followed by P7 fun afternoon – no cost to pupils.
    - P7 Residential Trip (subsidised by school)
    - P7 trip/activity – decided by pupils (subsidised by school)
  - Some events are often arranged by parents, and the school always tries to communicate with parents and Parent Partnership body, to encourage inclusivity and to ensure costs are kept to a minimum for individual families.
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### **Communication and Engagement:**

- The school will engage with parents and guardians through regular surveys and meetings to gather feedback on school costs and ensure our policies continue to meet community needs.
  - Information on available financial support will be shared through newsletters, the school website, and parent-teacher meetings, ensuring that families are well informed about how to access help.
  - Staff will be trained to understand the impact of poverty on learning and well-being and to identify and support pupils facing financial difficulties.
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### **Monitoring and Review:**

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and the Parent Partnership to ensure its effectiveness in reducing the cost of the school day.
  - The school will monitor the uptake of financial assistance and ensure that no child is excluded from any part of school life due to cost.
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**Review Date:** Next review date: Aug 26

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