

Libberton Primary School



Cost of the School Day

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Scope of Policy

Reducing the Cost of the School Day and tackling Child Poverty is a top priority within South Lanarkshire Council. The importance of this is highlighted in the Education Resources plan and Local Child Poverty Action Plan. Across Scotland almost 1 in 4 children and young people are living in poverty, most of whom are in a family with at least one working parent. We understand that living in poverty is hard and can affect all aspects of a child or young person's wellbeing, achievement, and attainment. While our school cannot change the financial situation anyone finds themselves in, we can ensure that what happens in our school doesn't negatively affect the pockets of our families.

Our school

In Libberton Primary School, we want all of our pupils to have the same opportunities and expectations in life. Money should pay no part in how any of our children/young people achieve and experience their education. We pay close attention to the Cost of the School Day. We will be clear with our parents and carers about any possible financial cost which may come up and ensure that anyone who cannot afford a particular cost eg for a residential trip, will have our full support in ensuring their child can still take part, regardless of cost. No child/young person will miss out on any aspect of their school life because of a lack of money.

Awareness and Empathy

At Libberton Primary School we ensure all our staff are Poverty Aware. All staff take part in training on this subject either in person through the CQIS and/or online through the [NHS Child Poverty Learning Hub](#). All staff will receive an annual update on Cost of the School Day each August from August 2025. We keep track of all money requested and ensure that no parent or child is made to feel embarrassment or shame if they cannot afford to contribute to any event. This will never exclude them from participating. We will aim to keep the cost of the school day to a minimum. At the start of each year our school will issue a Cost of the School Year plan to our parents so that they can see immediately when there will be events which may have a cost. This will allow families to budget if they are able, or to contact the school if they require assistance. Families will never need to prove their financial circumstances before help is given. Our staff always keep at the front of their minds that we are here to help the children in our care.

Libberton Primary School website has details of agencies who may be able to help families struggling with finances eg [Money Matters](#). We also signpost using the resource [Money Is Not The Only Problem](#).

Fundraising

Our Cost of the School Day/Participatory Budget Group, ensures that we do not have too many events which cost our families money. For fun events where there may be a cost, this will be collected in a 'chuck it in the bucket' manner so that any child who may not have enough money is not shamed by having to say they can't pay. We will never collect money from individual pupils. We will only have one non-uniform day in any school term as we recognise this can be difficult for some children or young people who may feel under pressure to wear 'trendy' clothes. Again, any money collected will not be done by targeting individuals.

We do not fundraise by selling your child's work as we recognise the pressure this can place on parents. Supported by our Parent Council, we will try to access grants from charities and commercial organisations rather asking parents for funds. If any parent works for an organisation which offers grants we are grateful when they let us know and we welcome any parent who is willing to help complete bids.

School Trips

Any trip that takes place during the school day and is linked to the curriculum will not have any charge. We may occasionally ask for a donation to help with the cost of transport for a whole school trip eg to the Pantomime but this will be done through Parent Pay and no child will miss out because a donation has not been given. For the Residential trip we will always give enough notice to ensure that parents/carers can 'pay up' small amounts of money each month. For families where this would be difficult, we will find another way for the child to go on the trip. We are aware that there can be 'hidden costs' to trips and work hard to avoid these wherever possible. Trips during the school day will normally involve children wearing their school uniform and there should not be a visit to any shop.

Learning

Children at our school do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Stationery is provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. Children have access to all required resources and equipment when at school.

Learning at Home

We will never give homework that requires our families to spend money. We use Google Classroom most days and for families who do not have a computer/laptop, one can be borrowed from the school. If any family has difficulty due to lack of Internet access, please contact the school.

Fun Events

We believe fun should be free wherever possible and not all fun events need to have additional expense. We want to make sure our children don't miss out on fun things, so we still take part in special events.

If we have a Halloween Party, during the week before Halloween we will encourage our families to hand in old costumes that no longer fit and allow our children to swap for a different costume.

For Christmas Jumper Day we do not take part in the charity fundraising but we do have fun in our seasonal jumpers. Again, we will have a 'swap shop' to allow parents to recycle jumpers that no longer fit.

Uniform

We have good quality second-hand uniforms available and would encourage all families to make use of these to ensure we are recycling as much as possible. If any child has grown out of their uniform while it is still in good condition, we would be very grateful for the donation.

Eating

We all work better when we aren't hungry, and our body is fuelled. South Lanarkshire Council have an automated system for families to get free school meals meaning that it is only children and young people who live in another Authority who would need to actually apply for this.

We are aware, however, that there are still families struggling who may not qualify for free school meals and we encourage families to speak to us if they are struggling to provide a lunch. We will never see a child go hungry.

As with all South Lanarkshire primary schools, our Cook in Charge shares any food that has not been used. Any left over fruit will be used either at lunchtime or collected by the school to use for snacks.