

Poverty Proofing Statement



August 2023 – June 2024

All staff are aware of the effects of poverty and how it pertains to the context of our school and our young people. Staff are committed to helping reduce the cost of the school day and narrowing the poverty related attainment gap.

With regards to the items below we have measures in place which help our families with school costs and make sure that our children can participate and learn.



Uniform: Our school uniform is a white, black or red polo shirt, shirt, sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper with black or grey trousers or skirt. Any suitable clothing with our without our school logo is encouraged. Any jogging trousers, leggings or shorts and tops are acceptable for PE. We keep a supply of gym shoes in various sizes to ensure that our pupils have appropriate footwear for PE lessons. We recycle lost property wherever possible. We receive regular contributions from the local community e.g. local church provides school uniforms and general clothing and footwear.

All children have access to outdoor weather suits and wellington boots for all pupils ELC – P7 to ensure that all pupils are able to participate in outdoor learning activities all year round.

Families are supported to make referrals to the School Uniform bank by school staff and our Pupil Equity Funded (PEF) Family Engagement Lead Learner who also works with identified families to help them with finance and budgeting and signposting to the Advice Shop for financial support.

‘Our Wardrobe’ is advertised to families as a free clothing resource where school uniform as well as a selection of everyday clothes, shoes, jackets and bags is provided for all our school aged children from early years throughout. This is stored within our reception area where families can take whatever they need without having to consult staff. We support this through staff and community donations.

Personal Care: The charity Dignity Boxes provide us with a regular supply of toiletries which are also stored at our front reception area for families to take as and when they need.



Travel: We give consideration to transport costs for all trips where walking is not an option.



Resources: All pupils have access to essential supplies within their classroom. We also have a supply of stationary within our reception area from which families can take what they need to support learning at home.



Trips: We give due consideration to ensure that costs are kept down. We will continue to monitor the number of trips, costs and families and respond accordingly.



Food: We promote Free School Meals and provide information for parents and carers at various times throughout the year.

Our free breakfast club is attended by all stages throughout the school and we also provide free snack at break times with food provided by our local church.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided for families at family learning events and our 'Polkemmet Patter' mornings.

Access to a school foodbank is available throughout the year from our reception area allowing families to access freely. We continue to provide this support via discrete communications with families. Our Pupil Equity Funded (PEF) Family Engagement Lead Learner signposts families to supports such as the school foodbank, Whitburn area Foodbank and The Whitburn Community Larder. Local community links such as Morrison's and Aldi have provided food for snack and family needs.

We will continue to extend our links with local business to ensure supply is consistent throughout the year.



Clubs: Any clubs which run during the day or after school are free of charge. School staff also help with the provision of free after school clubs.



Homework: Home learning activities are provided both digitally through TEAMS and SEESAW as well as paper format. Consideration is given to home learning projects to ensure there are no specialist resources required which may incur an additional cost for families. All children have access to any necessary digital technology in school.



Events: We limit the number of charity and other fundraising events and spread them throughout the year. Some of the money raised we use directly within the school to support equity. We have an annual calendar available at the start of each school session, highlighting key events and/or information on the school blog/website or Twitter account. This will help support families to plan for costs throughout the school year.