



Statement of action to address the cost of Harrysmuir's school day

All of our staff across our Learning Community are aware of the effects of poverty and how it pertains to the context of our school and our young people.

We have a range of universal and targeted supports and strategies in place to support our children and families to help reduce the cost of the school day. These are outlined below:



Uniforms and clothing

Universal:

Our school uniform is a white or pale blue polo shirt, burgundy sweat shirt/cardigan and/or shirt and tie. Unembroidered items are absolutely part of our school uniform and we actively promote this with our parents/carers. Black shorts/jogging trousers are accepted for PE with a plain white t-shirt.

Targeted

We currently have a recycled school uniform bank at all parent/carer events. We have a uniform and general clothing sharing shed outside the school which is stocked and used daily. Parents can access this without having to speak to anyone in school. Miss Anderson and Mrs Robertson can also support with referrals to The West Lothian School Clothing Bank. We are working with The West Lothian School Clothing Bank to support our children attending school camp. The School Clothing Bank also supplies day to day clothing. Spare uniform is available for any child who needs it throughout the school day. We provided a number of winter clothing items to families, in partnership with the West Lothian School Clothing bank.



Travelling to and from school

Universal:

Our school serves the catchment of Ladywell and almost all children live within walking distance to school. After school clubs are run in school where there is no need to travel any distance.

Targeted

School Staff can support those requiring assistance to complete transport applications. We have supported families with short term difficulties in getting their children to school with a targeted walking bus.



Learning at School

Universal

Stationary is provided for all classes to access at all times. There are options for resources to be borrowed to support learning i.e. dictionaries, rulers, calculators.

Targeted

Meetings are held regularly to provide bespoke learning targets for those children who need support with their learning. This is continually monitored through our termly Equity and Excellence Meetings. We use our PEF budget in a variety of ways to support learning, by employing a range of additional teaching and pupil support staff to work on targeted interventions in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing across our school.

Trips

Universal

We give consideration to all trips to ensure that costs are kept down. We plan school trips in advance to ensure parents/carers are notified in a timely manner. We try to limit Class trips to one annually to reduce the cost. We try to source locations that provide free transport to reduce the cost of trips per person. We monitor the number of trips, costs and year groups/families and respond accordingly. All pupils have the opportunity to attend a residential experiences throughout their time at Harrysmuir Primary School. These can be paid up through a payment card and we actively encourage pupils to join the Credit Union.

Targeted

School Staff are able to support families and sign post them for financial help if and when required. We use our PEF funding and donations from local charities to support trip costs as and when it is necessary,

Food at School

Universal

We promote Free School Meals and share information for all parents/carers about it at various times throughout the year. We have a link for FSM applications in our newsletter regularly. Cashless catering means that there is less stigma attached. Our free breakfast club is well attended. We have free healthy tuck and fruit available at break times. We provide tea/ coffee/ biscuits for families at parental engagement events e.g. assemblies, Sharing our Learning events.

Targeted

For those children who have not had breakfast this is provided. We run a lunch club for pupils that need support at lunchtime. Cupboard stocked long lasting shelf foods and toiletries are available through our sharing shed at the front of school. This is supported through Morrisons Community Champions. Parents/carers can access it daily without speaking to a person in school. They can also ask Miss Anderson and Mrs Robertson if they need extra support with food and Morrisons will put a food parcel together. We helped a number of families at Christmas time through a raffle, providing Christmas dinner and items to support breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout the Christmas holidays.

Fun events

Universal/ Targeted

We limit the number of charity and other fundraising events and spread them throughout the year. We always ask for donations (of food or money) rather than a contribution to dress down days and fund raisers. Some of the money raised we use directly within the school to support equity. We keep events at as low a cost as possible.

Clubs

Universal

Any clubs which run after school are free of charge. We use PEF funding to support other clubs such as Breakfast Club Dance and Nurture Football. Other clubs are all free e.g.

STEM/Young Engineers and Outdoor Learning. Our Pupils are supported to participate in Sports Clubs such as Netball and Football and are provided with the appropriate kit to play in games/tournaments.

Targeted

Our staff team signpost and encourage families to attend school clubs and activities.

Learning at home

Universal/Targeted

Home learning tends not to rely on ICT and we will not ask for work to be printed at home. If this is needed time is allocated to complete in school. We allow pupils to access IT and other facilities that they may not have at home during school time. We always provide paper/ resources to support completing homework.

Accessing financial entitlements

We proactively encourage people to apply for Free School Meals, Clothing Grants and other entitlements. (new starter packs and p1 packs, staff awareness of family situations – posters on notice

Up to date information on financial entitlements on the school website.

We promote the services of partners who provide welfare rights advice and money advice. Representatives from Citizens Advice and West Lothian Credit Union attend parent/carer events in school and their services are publicised in school and through school newsletters. Leaflets are available at events and at the school office.

Income awareness

We ensure that there is consistent staff awareness of the financial challenges families are facing and their impact on pupils.

We make clear to families that staff are there to talk with if costs are a problem and that they are met with understanding.

We talk about costs, poverty and poverty stigma with pupils through our assembly programme and through pupil voice groups.

Staff Team

Our Staff have a good awareness and knowledge and understanding of the children and families in our school. Our curriculum is being refreshed to allow us the opportunity to explore the issues surrounding poverty and we will begin to deliver our Participatory Budgeting Model to support this. Our staff are committed in helping reduce the cost of the school day and to narrow the poverty related attainment gap

Our staff have good relationships and speak with individual families in regards to supporting and sign posting to help available. We have positive multi-agency working, which offers positive support for those that require individualised input.