

# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY STATEMENT 2023-2024

All members of staff at Toronto Primary School are aware of the effects of poverty and how it relates to the context of our school, our young people, our families and our community.

At the start of every school session, we share a financial plan with our parents and carers. The plan outlines predicted expenditure allowing families to plan ahead and budget, easing the financial pressure. Expenses which are optional are clearly identified. When drafting the financial plan, the following factors are taken into account:

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS – EQUITY	
Universal Support	Targeted Support
Our school values promote equity and inclusion by ensuring all our children feel safe, treat others with respect and behave responsibly. We work hard to ensure no child is disadvantaged due to poverty.	Nurture underpins our daily practice and is vital for social skills development. Additional support is provided for children who require targeted support in this area.

LEARNING AT SCHOOL	
Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>Learning contexts are considered to make the experiences relevant to the experiences of pupils in the group.</p> <p>We implement Anywhere, Anytime Learning (AAL) with children in P4-P7 being encouraged to bring their own technology to school. All pupils will continue to have access to digital technologies in school with 1-1 devices available to all pupils in P2-P7.</p> <p>Stationery and core resources are provided for all classes to access at all times.</p>	<p>Regular planning meetings, Individual Education Plans and learning reviews are held and monitored regularly to support our most vulnerable pupils.</p> <p>Digital devices from school have been shared with identified families who are not able to access online learning from home due to lack of suitable technology.</p>

HOME LEARNING	
Universal Support	Targeted Support

<p>We provide home learning activities online through TEAMS and SEESAW. We do not ask for any work to be printed at home.</p> <p>All children have access to digital technology in school.</p> <p>Consideration is given to home learning projects to ensure there are no specialist resources required which may incur an additional cost for families.</p>	<p>Paper copies of learning activities are available for those children who do not have access to technology.</p> <p>We are working towards ensuring all learners have access to appropriate technology at home to support their learning. They are encouraged to use which ever device is available to them at home (phone, tablet, X-Box, netbook)</p>
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## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>We are striving to increase partnership working with parents and carers. We encourage them to participate in, contribute to and understand their child's learning. A variety of media is used to ensure our communication reaches all parents. Some of these include parent meetings, weekly information, text messages, SWAY, letters and e-mail. Parents are also able to communicate with us through our Parent Council members.</p> <p>Our Family Learning Programme is based on needs identified through consultation with families and opportunities are offered to all families.</p>	<p>We aim to make our school inclusive and accessible to all families. Sometimes parents are invited to take part in small, informal discussion groups to gather views from a wider representative group.</p> <p>Our Family Link Worker supports targeted pupils and families to support increased attendance.</p>

## UNIFORM

Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>Uniform is promoted to negate any peer pressure for branded clothing. Our school uniform is a polo shirt, sweat shirt or cardigan, shirt and tie (not compulsory) with plain unembroidered items acceptable as school uniform.</p> <p>Any shorts/ jogging bottoms and T shirts are acceptable for PE with the exception of football strips. We discourage the wearing of branded sportswear.</p>	<p>'Nearly new' school uniform is available both from our school office and from our 'Toronto Boutique' which has a focus on sustainability through reusing good quality school clothing.</p> <p>We know our families well and we work in partnership with the West Lothian School Clothing bank to make sure the wonderful donations get to the families who need support. We provide a school sweatshirt and hoodie with every referral.</p>

## EATING AT SCHOOL

Universal Support	Targeted Support

<p>Breakfast club provision is free and accessible to all children.</p> <p>We promote Free School Meals and share information with all parents about it at various times throughout the year. The school operates a cashless system to reduce any stigma around free school meals.</p>	<p>Breakfast is provided for children who are late to school and haven't eaten. Nurture breakfast sessions are offered to targeted children.</p> <p>We make provision for any child who doesn't have a snack for morning break. Fruit bowls are provided for any pupils who don't have a snack.</p>
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TRAVEL COSTS	
Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>Almost all children live within walking distance to school. All pupils in P5 and P6 are encouraged to complete Bikeability training.</p> <p>After school clubs are held in school to ensure no further travel implications.</p>	<p>Staff have supported families requiring assistance to complete transport applications.</p> <p>The West Lothian Bike Library is used to ensure full participation in Bikeability programme.</p>

SCHOOL CLUBS	
Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>All activity clubs organised out-with the school day are fully funded by the school and are currently free of charge to all pupils.</p>	<p>Participation in activity clubs are monitored and children in receipt of free school meals are invited to take part to increase the engagement in sport and activity.</p>

EXCURSIONS	
Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>Excursions and events are planned in advance to ensure parents/carers are notified in a timely manner. Class trips are limited in number to help reduce the cost. We make best use of our local community and visitors to enhance learning experiences where possible. All pupils have the opportunity to attend residential experiences in P7. We provide a payment plan in advance.</p>	<p>Consideration is given to transport costs for all trips where walking is not an option. Support is available to families for financial assistance if and when required.</p>

EVENTS	
Universal Support	Targeted Support
<p>Our Parent Council supports the school to plan fundraising events which are balanced between supporting charities and our own school community.</p>	<p>The timing of events are planned to avoid times of the year when families have increased expenditure, for example, Christmas.</p>

Dress down days are limited to one per month and the money is capped per family. Payments are not compulsory.

In P7 we celebrate the end of the children's primary school years with a special event at low cost. We focus on relationships and the meaning of the event rather than items such as prom dresses and limousines. We encourage the children to dress in clothes they're comfortable in.