



Mossneuk Primary School

Cost of the School Day Position Statement

June 2019

At Mossneuk Primary School we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We examine the School Day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home Learning.

Uniform



Our current uniform is..

- navy blue sweater or cardigan
- grey trousers or shorts
- navy blue pinafore, skirt or trousers
- blue/white gingham summer dress
- pale blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse
- Mossneuk tie (navy and gold striped)

Families can purchase uniforms from Border Embroideries (www.border-embroideries.co.uk) or Schoolwear Made Easy (www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com). We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/poloshirts.

ACTION: This session our Parent Teacher Association are confirming which company our uniforms will be coming from, ensuring best value for money. This will be shared with the whole school community.

Travel



The majority of our children walk to school or are driven to school by their parents/carers. Transport is provided for some children, who live in the Jackton area, by the Local Authority. We are aware that this could mean some children are not able to attend extra curricular after school clubs. We therefore ensure that we have a number of different lunch time clubs and activities for children to participate in.

ACTION: This session we will continue to monitor attendance at extra curricular clubs to ensure all pupils have equal access to them.

Learning



Children at Mossneuk Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activity. Essential stationery is provided so young people do not need to bring their own equipment, although many choose to.

ACTION: This area is continually reviewed to ensure that no additional costs are charged to parents/carers for core learning experiences.

Friendships



We teach our young people about poverty related issues as part of our ongoing Health and Wellbeing programme in school. As part of our Bounce Back programme each stage discusses Protective Behaviours, where pupils set up their own Network of Support. This allows pupils who are experiencing poverty-related bullying to have a way of reporting this in confidence.

ACTION: We intend to gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day throughout the coming year through our “Mossy Voice” pupil voice groups. This will allow them to be involved in any future decision making around this.

School Trips



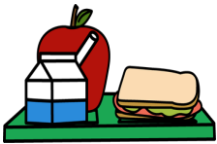
Currently each class in our school go on one major class trip in the year, linked to learning within their class. We reduce the cost of each class trip by subsidising them from our School Fund.

During some sessions, an additional whole school or departmental trip (eg. Christmas Pantomime) is undertaken. This is always subsidised in a greater way and the amount of subsidy is discussed with our Parent Teacher Association committee.

We are mindful of families with more than one child and, especially for more expensive trips, larger families are considered on an individual basis.

For trips that are more expensive (eg. P7 residential trips) parents are given many months advanced notice and they are given the opportunity to pay up the cost.

Eating at school



In the last school year 4.2% of our pupils were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we reduce this with lunch hall staff having a discrete list of pupils who are in receipt of these. FME pupils receive a lunch band in the same way as every other child.

ACTION: To remind parents/carers, on an annual basis, to take up the free school meals if their children are entitled to it.

Fun Events



Mossneuk Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families.

ACTION: We intend to look carefully at attendance and participation in these events in order to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action.

As with school trips, our Fun Events are planned across the year, with care being taken not to overload specific terms or times of year with events that have a cost attached to them. No children would ever be excluded from such an event if it takes place during the school day.

Our Parent Teacher Association raise funds for the school through different events and social occasions, all out with the school day. When planning their events, they are mindful to include activities which are free. They also ensure their events are dispersed throughout the year, with no overdue pressure being given to parents at specific times.

ACTION: We will continue to monitor the calendar of events each session to ensure there is never too much pressure for parents/carers.

Within school time, we fundraise for a number of different charitable causes throughout the year. We understand that not all families are able to contribute so we do not demand a specific donation from any pupil (eg. non-uniform days). Pupils are not excluded if they fail to bring a donation.

School Clubs



At Mossneuk Primary School we have many regular clubs – including football, netball, cross country, athletics and many more. We do not charge any young person to take part. When undertaking interschool competitions, pupils who take part in the school team or club do not get charged for transport. These costs are paid for through our School Fund. We do not demand that specific specialist equipment is purchased for any of our clubs.

Home Learning



We ensure that any homework activity can be completed by *all* pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework tasks should not require any specialist equipment to complete them. Homework tasks which require the use of ICT are not compulsory, or there would be an alternative way offered by the class teacher to complete them.

Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and any pupil who does not complete homework would not receive a sanction.

Conclusion

We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance and will not be ‘fixed’ by any one action. In the forthcoming year, we will ensure that

- Each of the areas of “Cost of the School Day” will be shared and discussed at Parent Council level.
- The position statement will be shared with all parents/carers and they will be given the chance to make comment/suggest changes which would help to improve our practices.

This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day.