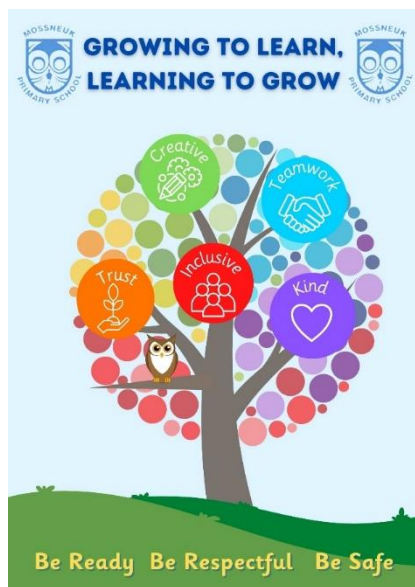


Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class



Cost of the School Day Policy



Date updated: October 2024

Review Date: October 2025

Vision and Values



Throughout our school and nursery class we aim to provide a happy, supportive, nurturing and caring environment where children enjoy learning and are encouraged and motivated to develop skills which help them reach their potential and be the best they can be.

Rationale

At Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class we understand the need to reduce the **Cost of the School Day** for all our pupils and families and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty.

We strive to ensure that every child has equity of opportunity in Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class.

Aims

- To reduce the pressure school places on family incomes
- To remove barriers to participation and learning for pupils from low income households
- To signpost families to appropriate supports and financial advice

Equal Opportunities

We aim to provide equal opportunities for all pupils irrespective of ability, gender and cultural background. We strive to enable each child to maximise his/her potential

UNCRC Act (2024)

UNCRC became law in July 2024. Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class achieved the **GOLD Rights Respecting School Award** in 2017 and are now working towards our GOLD re-accreditation. We aim to ensure that all pupils

- ✓ The right to an education (Article 29)
- ✓ The right to education which develops my personality and talents to the full (Article 29)



We examine the **Cost of the School Day** through the following **lenses**; Uniform, Travelling to and from school, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating at school, Fun Events, Extra-curricular clubs, Home Learning and Period Poverty.

Uniform

Our current uniform is



- navy blue sweater or cardigan
- grey trousers or shorts
- navy blue pinafore, skirt or trousers
- blue/white, yellow/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/polo shirts, so, parents and carers are able to choose their preferred and most affordable uniform supplier, including local supermarkets.

We also have a small selection of preloved uniforms available meaning parents and carers can take what they need.

We are sensitive to pupils with sensory issues who may require adapted school uniform

We also understand that things can happen at home which might mean that children are occasionally not able to wear school uniform. We are also able to help families who are unable to provide uniform for their child.

Travelling to and from school

Most of our children walk to school or are driven to school by their parents and 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 also offer lunch time clubs and activities for children to participate in. We actively promote the under 22 free travel card and can help parents with the application process.



Learning



Children at Mossneuk Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activities. Essential stationery is provided so they do not need to bring their own equipment, although many choose to. Bikes can be provided for Bikeability training. Parents and carers who require home learning packs or resources for their child/ren can make arrangements with the school to collect them.

Friendships

We teach our children about poverty related issues as part of our ongoing Health and Wellbeing programme and during school assemblies. We regularly discuss the Cost of the School Day with the Parent Council and work together to identify creative ways of engaging families in school events that have minimum or no cost.



School Trips



Trips are planned each year by class teachers to consolidate interdisciplinary learning within each class. We reduce the cost of each class trip for all children by subsidising them from our School Fund. When children cannot afford to take part in a class trip, we ensure they can still experience it.

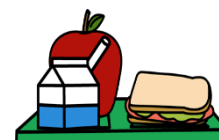
We do not charge our P7 pupils for any transition visits to secondary school.

For excursions that are more expensive, for example, the P7 residential, we subsidise this for all children using monies raised by our Parent Council. We make sure that our families are given many months advanced notice and have the opportunity to pay up the cost. We work closely with our families to ensure that poverty is not a barrier to pupils' participation in residential excursions.

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

Eating at school

This session year 4.2% of our pupils are in receipt of Free School Meals. The use of ParentPay has helped to reduce any stigma that may be associated with receiving a free lunch. We are aware there are some P1-5 pupils whose parents have not claimed this entitlement due to meals for these children being free and we encourage them to do so. We continue to support parents and carers who use ParentPay to pay their child/ren's lunch and work with them to ensure that the account does not fall into arrears, and agree a payment plan, if required.



Fun Events



We recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on our families.

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.

When children cannot afford to take part in any activity, we ensure they can still experience it.

Our Parent Council raise funds for the school through different events and social occasions, most of which are out with the school day. When planning their events, they are mindful to include activities which are low cost or free. They also ensure their events are evenly spaced throughout the year.

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 donations are voluntary. We always use the phrase "if you are able", when asking for fundraising monies from our families. All pupils are able to take part in the activity, even if they are unable to donate.

The school covers the cost of Christmas parties and activities for all children.

We host both an annual P1-3 Nativity and a P4-7 Christmas Concert and keep ticket costs to a minimum. If parents and carers are asked to provide costumes, we take care to ensure that this should be something that the children already have and not specially purchased.

The same applies to our School Show for P4-7 pupils which usually happens bi-annually. We work closely with our families to ensure that all parents and carers are able to attend performances that their child is taking part in, ensuring that poverty is not a barrier.

Our Parent Council subsidise the cost of P7 Leavers' Hoodies for all children. If families cannot afford a hoodie, we make sure all children who would like a hoodie, receive one.

Extra – Curricular Clubs

At Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class we have regular lunchtime and after school clubs – including football, netball, dance, cross country, athletics, show club and many more. Currently, all of our extra-curricular clubs have no cost. We do not insist on any specialist kit for any of our extracurricular activities. No child would be refused the opportunity to participate, due to lack of payment or equipment.



In addition, we participate in a wide range of sporting activities promoted by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and our Active Schools Coordinator. We also attend competitions and events in our Learning Community and SLC. There is no cost for attendance or transport to and from any of these events.

Home Learning



We ensure that all homework can be completed by all pupils no matter their family circumstances. Homework tasks should not require any specialist equipment to complete them. We are able to provide stationery, craft materials etc when required and offer homework support to all children so that tasks can be completed using resources available within school. For children who do not have ICT access at home to help them complete homework, we make other arrangements for them to use ICT in school or provide an alternative way for these to be completed.

Period Poverty

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 means that local authorities and education providers are legally required to make period products available free of charge, as and when they are required. In Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class, we provide free sanitary products for our children, parents and staff. Sanitary products are provided in the toilets, and we remind our school community where they can access these products.

Conclusion and School Contact Information

Our Head Teacher, Julie McGowan, can be contacted via the school phone on 01355 239777 or via email at gw14mossneukpsht@glow.sch.uk to support families whenever necessary.

In Mossneuk Primary School and Nursery Class, we are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires continuous monitoring and will not be 'fixed' by any one action. We will continue to use a range of approaches to ensure barriers to participation and engagement in the wider life of the school are reduced for all pupils.