



# Our Lady and St. Anne's Primary School

## Cost of the School Day Policy

*September 2024*



## **Rationale**

The impact of poverty on a child/young person's education is well documented. Living in poverty is hard and can affect all aspects of a child or young person's wellbeing, achievement, and attainment. While we cannot change the financial situations of our families, we can ensure that we have a policy in place that ensures we do not add to the financial burdens some of our families might face.

## **Aims**

In Our Lady and St. Anne's Primary, we aim to ensure that all pupils have access to the same opportunities. This includes:

- ensuring equal access to opportunities at school by removing barriers to participation and learning for children from low-income households;
- reducing the pressure that school costs might place on family incomes;
- signposting families to financial supports, where applicable;
- ensuring that Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is directed to remove financial barriers to learning and participation for pupils.

## **Our Promise**

- We will ensure that all staff are poverty aware. School staff will take part in training and will receive an annual update on the Cost of the School Day.
- Every 2 years, we will engage all stakeholders in Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) surveys to help us develop an action plan that continues to meet the needs of our school community.
- We will continue to engage stakeholders in our Participatory Budgeting process annually to identify how some of the PEF will be directed.
- In line with SLC guidance, there will be no charge for educational trips or school performances throughout the school year.
- At the start of each year we will issue a Cost of the School Year plan that will allow families to budget, if they are able, or contact the school in advance, if they require assistance. Families will never need to prove their financial circumstances before help is sought/given.
- We will treat all communications with families about financial difficulties empathetically, sensitively and the very strictest of confidence.

## **Support for Families**

If any family is struggling, we would always encourage them to speak to us so that we can try and point them in the right direction for the most appropriate help.

## **Uniform**

Our uniform consists of: black shoes; white shirt; grey trousers/skirt/pinafore and maroon jumper or cardigan. PE kits are white polo shirt and black shorts. As we do not insist on a badged uniform, all items can also be purchased at appropriate retail outlets, including supermarkets. The school has a uniform bank, situated at the main reception, that is accessible to parents at all times to eradicate any stigma.

## **Travel**

The majority of our children travel to school by foot or car. Transport is provided for some pupils by the Local Authority and we are aware that this could mean some are not able to attend after school clubs. Consequently, we offer lunch time activities, as well as after-school clubs, to ensure all pupils have access to extra-curricular activities. There is no cost for any of these activities.

## **Learning**

There will be no cost in Our Lady and St. Anne's for any core learning activity. Pens, pencils, stationery and any equipment children need to succeed at school will be provided. All children will receive a homework pack at the start of the school year and can be provided with any additional materials required to complete work at home.

## **School Trips**

We aim for each class to undertake at least one curricular-related school trip each year and these activities are free. There will be no cost to any other educational excursions. Non-educational activities will cost no more than £5 and this can be paid in instalments as required. Whenever possible, we will use our school fund and the PEF to subsidise trips with an associated cost. For residential trips, we will use a staged payment plan and we will not ask families to pay more than £20 per month.

## **Food**

Breakfast Club is run daily and is free of charge to attend. Our daily Toast Trolley ensures that all children have access to a breakfast before playtime. All school meals are free for P1-5 pupils and there is free school meal entitlement for P6 – P7 pupils who are eligible. We are aware that there are families who are struggling financially who may not qualify for free school meals and we therefore encourage families to speak to us if this is the case. We will never see a child go hungry. Any left-over food is offered to pupils in the dinner hall as 'extras' and fruit is provided at break via a 'Help Yourself' basket in the school office. We also have a Food Bank situated in our visiting services room which can be accessed at any time with no questions asked.

## **Fundraising and Events**

Throughout the year, we plan events for enjoyment but try to ensure these do not add to the financial burden of our families. No child is ever excluded from events due to financial reasons. Fayres, concerts and parent/carer events will be free to attend and will take place during the school day. Events, such as non-uniform days, will incur no charge. During Lent, as a Catholic school, we will hold events to raise money for charitable purposes. Where families are able to make donations, this can be done discretely via Parent Pay to ensure complete confidentiality.

# Our Lady and St. Anne's Cost of the School Day

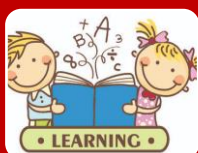


## SCHOOL UNIFORM

No expectation of branded items.

Universal offer of uniform bank, accessible to all.

Accessible food bank.



## LEARNING

All classroom materials provided.

Homework resources provided.



## SCHOOL TRIPS

No cost for educational excursions.

£5 maximum cost for fun trips with payment plan offer.

Payment plan of £20 maximum per month for residential trips.



## FOOD

All school meals are free for P1 - P5. FSM for eligible P6 - P7.

Toast trolley and fruit snacks on offer daily for pupils.

Breakfast club daily free of charge & food bank within school .



## FUNDRAISING

Donations will be gratefully accepted but not required.

Donations can be made on Parent Pay top reduce stigma.



## EVENTS

No child is excluded from an event for financial reasons.

No cost for events that occur during the school day.

