

Whitburn Academy Cost of the School Day Statement

As a school we have made the assumption that the Cost of Living Crisis will have placed financial pressure on ALL households and therefore want to ensure that the additional financial burden that can be associated with the cost of the school day are minimised/removed.

Our aim is to provide high quality learning experiences, both within and beyond the classroom, that will have a positive impact on learning, and enhance social, emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, whilst ensuring that the burden of cost is never a barrier to participation for any young person.

Uniform

We strongly promote the wearing of school uniform. This not only promotes a sense of identity and inclusivity; it also helps parents to keep clothing costs to a minimum. To keep the cost of uniform low we insist that uniform items are unbranded allowing parents/carers to purchase uniform items from the supermarket. We also gift every young person with a junior school tie in S1 and a senior tie in S5. Whilst our S5/6 pupils wear a blazer at an additional cost we actively promote the use of 'pre-loved' blazers where pupils who are leaving donate their blazers back to the school.

Information is shared with parents on how to claim Clothing Grants and targeted support is given from our Family Link workers, where necessary, to help parents complete the forms. We also signpost families to the West Lothian Uniform Bank and we use our PEF budget to hold a significant supply of items of school uniform that can be provided to families to replace worn items over the course of the school year.

For PE, pupils can wear any tracksuit bottoms/shorts, trainers and t-shirt (other than football colours) they choose. This ensures they can use existing items of sportswear rather than having to buy extra kit specifically for school. The school also holds a supply of PE kit that can be borrowed so all pupils can always participate in PE lessons. School team kits are provided when taking part in official events.

Materials

Whilst we strongly encourage our learners to bring everything they need to access their learning, we ensure that the school can provide everything that a learner might need without fuss or penalty. This includes pens, pencils, paper, replacement jotters and folders etc. As an AAL (Anywhere, anytime learning) school young people are able to use their own digital devices, such as mobile phones or laptops, to access learning however, every class has a sufficient number of netbooks which can be accessed by learners who opt not to bring their own device.

For specialist areas of the curriculum the school provides the additional resources required. This includes specialist art packs for Art & Design and scientific calculators for science and maths.

There are also no additional financial costs for pupils studying subjects within Home Economics and CDT.

Excursions

For as long as we can sustain it, all excursions that form an integral part of the curriculum, and enhance the pupil learning experience, are free to all pupils. This is to ensure that no learner misses out including those who may be experiencing financial hardship but live in higher quintiles. We will fund these trips from our School Fund and PEF allocation.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Participation in all extra-curricular activities are free to all pupils. We can also provide free transport home, using our school minibus, to pupils who are unable to arrange a lift or travel independently using their Young Scot card. All additional kit and equipment for sporting events is also provided.

Digital Support / Homework

All learners who do not have access to a digital device at home are able to borrow a school device for the session. This allows access learning if unable to attend school for any reason or to access homework via Glow.

Study Support / Masterclasses

All pupils who remain in school for a study support session followed by a masterclass session are provided with a hot food snack. Pupils who stay beyond 5.45pm to study in the library (open until 7pm on Masterclass evenings) are also provided with a hot snack. This is to limit the need for pupils to buy food for their dinner if staying in school to study.

Fundraising

We now keep fundraising events, such as non-uniform days, to a minimum. There is no longer a £1 donation. We have opted instead to make this either a small donation of up to £1 or, for some events, bring in a food item which is then re-issued as food parcels to our families most in need.

Events

Events such as concerts will be free to pupils and the cost of tickets for adults kept to an absolute minimum.