

St John's Primary Hamilton

Cost of the School Day Policy

Introduction

Recent Scottish Government policy and investment has focused on closing the attainment gap between children from high and low income households in order to reduce current inequalities in educational outcomes. Integral to this agenda must be an understanding of how education and school structures, policies and practices affect children and young people from low-income households and where difficulties and financial barriers to participation exist throughout the school day. Understanding more about this from children's perspectives can support schools to poverty-proof their policies and practices so that conditions are right for all children and young people to learn and to achieve.

For further information on Child Poverty Action Group please look up <http://www.cpag.org.uk/costoftheschoolday>

Our Vision

In our school community we will work together as a team to develop our children as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens by providing a safe, friendly and inclusive environment for motivating and challenging learning experiences.

In St John's, we aim to employ a range of simple and practical measures which can help to minimise costs, reduce stigma and ensure that children and young people have equal access to opportunities at school.

Rationale

In St John's Primary, we strive to ensure that every child should have equity of opportunity to educational experiences.

Aims

1. Ensure all children and young people have access to meaningful learning experiences, which enable them to develop an understanding of the different types of poverty, and how they affect learning and daily lives.
2. Enable children and young people to be empowered and make meaningful changes, which benefit learners and families.
3. Support children, young people and families to access supports and financial advice.
4. Offer a collective and ongoing commitment to equity by listening to and acting upon what children and parents say.



5. Support the Government's vision for Scotland's society and economy to be stronger with families feeling empowered.

Is there poverty?

More than one in five (210,000) children across Scotland are officially recognised as living in poverty. In Glasgow, it is estimated that one in three (over 36,000) children are in poverty. Insufficient household income can mean that some children and young people don't have the resources needed for school and can't easily afford to take part in school activities which cost money. This can put them at risk of missing out on opportunities at school and feeling different, excluded and unhappy.

Our Health and Wellbeing and Equity Co-ordinator is Alison Hope, HT. In this role Mrs Hope is available to offer advice and support to staff on teaching approaches and resources.

Mrs Hope is available to support families whenever necessary.

Planning

Teachers plan for 3 teaching terms each session and use Curriculum for Excellence outcomes as a guide to ensure that children access a broad and stimulating curriculum. Within Health and Wellbeing planners teachers use a variety of strategies to stimulate discussion and develop understanding of poverty in Scotland.

Teachers meet termly with SMT to discuss plans, evaluate pupil progress, and set targets.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

As an understanding of poverty and its affects are progressively developed across children's learning, there are carefully planned opportunities to experience breadth, depth and challenge through a variety of approaches, including:

- active learning;
- investigative, collaborative and independent approaches to learning;
- linking tasks across the curriculum (including well planned interdisciplinary learning) using relevant and exciting contexts to engage and motivate children.
- problem-solving approaches;
- encouraging children to explain their thinking;
- effective use of technology to support learning.

At all stages differentiation is provided through success criteria, choice of resources and organisation structures such as cooperative learning, flexible ability groups depending on the task; and additional input, support and challenge. This helps to ensure Personalisation of learning. We also provide Personalisation and Choice of learning in P1-7 by meeting regularly with children to hold learning conversations and set targets for the next learning steps to increase attainment.

Clear links are promoted between Health, Wellbeing, Equity, and other subject areas to draw different strands of learning together and provide Coherence. The embedding of UNCRC throughout all curricular areas supports the increase in attainment and is demonstrated in the careful tracking and monitoring of progress.

Our Commitment

Uniform- our uniform is a red jumper/sweatshirt, white polo shirt and grey trousers or skirt.

Parents/ carers can purchase uniform from any local shop/ supermarket.

We encourage parents/ carers to apply for all appropriate benefits and offer uniform swaps for good quality used items. We direct parents to South Lanarkshire's web site for further details on how to apply for clothing grants.

At different times of the school year we host a uniform recycling event where good quality uniform can be collected. These events are open to all families to encourage uptake.

Lunches- We encourage and direct parents to South Lanarkshire's web site to apply for free school meals. We remind parents/ carers to do this on an annual basis and offer support to complete the online form if a parent/carer is having trouble. The school has a supply of fruit, which is available for any child who does not have a snack with them at break time.

Curriculum- all equipment required to fully engage in all curricular activities is provided by the school. Learners at times may want to bring their own pencils/ pens but each classroom is fully equipped with all necessary resources. There are lunchtime and after school clubs offering research time in our ICT suite to ensure that, all learners can complete homework/ presentation tasks.

After school clubs- we have a wide range of afterschool clubs running from Monday-Thursday as well as lunchtime clubs. The only clubs, which charge £1, are those where a professional coach has been employed to work with the children and our Parent Council subsidise the termly cost of the coaching sessions. All clubs run by school staff have no charge.

Outings and residential trips- our Parent Council subsidise the cost of outings which allows us to either have the trip free of charge or ask parents/carers for a minimal contribution. If a parent/carer is concerned about the cost of any activity we ask for the parent to discuss the concern with the Head Teacher. Our Parent Council and Pupil Equity Fund has funded Primary 7 residential trips to ensure that all children who want to attend get the opportunity. When planning our residential trip we set up the payments in August, to be paid in full by April, providing time to spread the cost over several months.

Events- across the school year we look at ways to support our local and wider community. We ensure that we have a balance of opportunities to allow learners to donate their time/ qualities rather than asking for money, for example

Packing food boxes for advent with Hamilton Food Bank

Regularly visiting our local care homes to spend time with the residents

Our Pupil Council selects one charity a year, which as a whole school we support.

If we do fundraising the collection of any donations is done discreetly.

Our Parent Council fund the cost of a Pantomime and the food and prizes for our Christmas parties so there is no charge for Christmas activities.

We hold a Halloween Disco in the evening run by our Parent Council. We hold a recycling event prior to Halloween to allow parents and children to collect a free dressing up costume.

The school has a stock of Christmas jumpers, which can be used on Christmas jumper day in December.

We have excellent relations with local retailers who give us extra stock or offer it at greatly reduced prices. The items are given to families who can make good use of them.

Monitoring and Evaluation

SMT will monitor the progress of the changes made and the delivery of the curriculum by:

- having planning discussion meetings every term to discuss planned learning, coverage of the curriculum and observe and discuss progress of pupils.
- discussions with Parent and Pupil Council and Cost of the School Day Steering Group.
- formal observations of lessons
- informal visits to each class
- carrying out regular audits to review school's progress

Equal Opportunities

St John's Primary School aims 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.

Cost of the School Day Policy June 2020

Review date June 2021.