



Mid Calder Cost of the School Day Action Statement

'NEARLY A QUARTER OF SCOTLAND'S CHILDREN STILL IN POVERTY' (CPAG - 23 March 2023)



Research informs us that low incomes and unaffordable costs remain a key barrier to participation and learning. School costs can put pressure on low-income families and put children and young people at risk of missing out on opportunities and feeling different, ashamed and stigmatised. At Mid Calder Primary we are working hard to minimise costs and ensure equal access to opportunities.

Getting Ready for School



Universal: Our school uniform consists of red t-shirt, grey sweatshirt, school trousers or skirt/dress- these items can be unbranded/plain without our school logo. Black gym shoes, white t-shirt and black shorts are our PE Kit.



Targeted: We have recently changed our uniform supplier to ensure that we are providing low cost/durable uniforms at a good price for our families. Uniform can be ordered online. The school also has some new items available (availability may vary) We will continue to have a selection of 'nearly new' uniform items in our 'Swap-Shop'. These are in our school entrance area. This session we are looking to extend this to include other items such as bags, shoes, PE Kits etc. Our idea is the we also have seasonal 'Swap-Shop' items such as 'Halloween costumes and Christmas Jumpers. Other items can be sought from the West Lothian Clothing Bank if needed e.g support with clothing for a residential trip or outing. Clothing Grant forms are available from the school as well as support if need for the completion of these. You can also visit - <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing>

Traveling to school



Universal: We actively encourage all pupils to walk to school, who are able to. Our staff/parents are invited to take part in Bikeability training. This facilitates free bikeability sessions for P4 to P7. Taxis are budgeted for during transition times for our P7 pupils who require enhanced transition activities between their high school choices. Healthy travel is actively encouraged at school.



Targeted: Our Parent Staff Association make a contribution per child for every child in school towards class trips. Class trips are limited to one trip per year. Sharing of buses with cluster schools also ensures costs are kept low (or even free) to individual pupils.

Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 24 (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



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...to hope for better things

FOR ALL



Universal



Targeted

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Friendships at School

Universal: Our school values and positive relationship policy promotes a respectful and friendly ethos in school, and positive relationships. Positive relationships and promoted through through our school assemblies, adult modelling, buddying system and House Captains.

Targeted: Nurture sessions aim to develop social skills to support our learners with positive relationships. We are about to pilot a lunch time boards games club, which is accessible to any pupil who is finding lunch times difficult or who are finding it difficult to form friendships with their peers. We have P6 Wellbeing Warriors who help and support individuals with friendships.

Learning at school and Resources



Universal

Universal: All materials and resources required for the school day are readily available for all pupils. This include pencils, rulers, pens, scissors, glue etc. In cases of lack of resources to support home learning tasks, pupils can take items to aid participation in activities (i.e. A4 paper for creating a poster etc) Excellence in Equity meetings held termly between SLT and staff: Positive outcomes for all pupils also form part of this discussion and evaluation to ensure all stakeholders are aware of individual pupils' needs in line with GIRFEC principles and WL Tracking and Monitoring. Staff work closely with parents and Support for Learning to ensure Individual Education Plans reflect the individual needs of our pupils and all agree action plans to raise attainment. All staff are consulted regularly in changes to pupils receiving Free School Meals and/or Clothing Grant to ensure equity awareness is on-going.



Targeted

Targeted: Include a range of items available for supporting STEM/creative home learning tasks to ensure all pupils can participate. Digital device loan service is available for families who are unable to provide access to learners for Seesaw/TEAMS homework activities



Universal

School Clubs

Universal: Unless run by Active Schools, pupils may sign up to a range of free After Schools clubs throughout the year, delivered by staff volunteers.

Targeted: Financial supports for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.



Targeted

School Trips



Universal

Universal: School trips planned in advance to ensure our families are notified in a timely manner. All pupils have the opportunity to attend residential experiences throughout Primary School, these trips can be paid up over time. We subsidise trips and excursions for all pupils, from our School Fund, where and when we can.



Targeted

Targeted: We always cover the full cost of trips and excursions for those families or children who need this support.

Fun and Charitable Events



Universal

Universal: Wording in communications to parents/carers, carefully considered to ensure voluntary basis only. No school based events are compulsory financially. School budget supports in place for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.



Targeted

Targeted: Continue with emphasis on "voluntary" and "donations" to ensure pressures of Cost of the School Day are decreased for all families. Encourage open and transparent discussions with PSA to ensure members plan and consider costings of events and the associated financial burdens these can have on families.

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Eating at School

Universal: All pupils have access to Breakfast Club. This runs daily between 8.00-8.30 am (last admission at 8.25am). Pupils have choice of cereals/toast, yogurt and drinks. To allow social skills to develop as part of our MCPS Health and Wellbeing, we also provide fun activities and games for pupils to play with ensuring a positive start to the day. Some of our P6 and P7 leaders also provide dance sessions too. All pupils from Nursery to Primary 5 have access to a free school lunch with a choice daily of two hot meals and/or packed lunch. Pupils can opt for packed lunch on a Friday. Currently Primary 6 and 7 pupils are required to pay for lunch, unless in receipt of Free School Meals.



Targeted: Our in school Health and Well-being Lead will integrate aspects of food technology into health and well-being sessions, including basic meal preparations and supporting nurture principles.

Home Learning



Universal: All home learning tasks are given to pupils via Seesaw or TEAMS. When needed, paper copies of home learning tasks are made available. Pupils, who may experience digital disadvantage through lack of devices or wifi, can access these systems in class on a spontaneous and planned basis. Learning tasks and activities are regularly posted online using Teams or Seesaw and pupils are trained in logging in/out during school time by school staff and Buddies.



Targeted: Continue to monitor and support families who do not have technologies to support learning tasks at home. Digital device loan service is available for families who are unable to provide access to learners for Seesaw/TEAMS homework activities

Staff Team



Universal: All our staff have a good knowledge of our learners and families. Everyone at Mid Calder is committed to the reduction of cost at school. Staff when planning learning experiences and opportunities for learners make careful consideration to reduce any costs to families.



Targeted: School will help, signpost and support families with seeking financial aid. The school has positive partnerships which offer support to families when required.

2023/24

Target Identified	Rationale	Outcomes	Interventions	Impact
The cost of clubs after school for learners	Gather data on Quintile attendance from previous clubs. Look to promote to those who might benefit from access to clubs for free.	The offer of the majority of our after school clubs for free	Delivery of after school clubs by staff, partners and parent volunteers. Use Active school coordinator to assist with providing clubs. If there is a financial commitment to a club running - school will look to use school funds where possible to support.	Almost all children are able to access afterschool clubs. Data evidence shows an increase in disadvantaged families engaging with clubs.