






THE COST OF  
THE SCHOOL DAY

## SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL - POVERTY STATEMENT 2022/23

### School Team Approach

All members of staff at Simpson Primary recognise the impact of poverty and rising living costs on families and the wider community and have used this knowledge to create the planned team approach below.

We have referred to the school principles of **Respect, Fairness, Kindness, Honesty and Courage** in the preparation of this document.

Area	Universal	Targeted
<p><b>School Dress Code</b></p> 	<p>Our uniform consists of a navy sweatshirt and light blue polo shirt. Parents/carers can order online as well as placing their order through the school.</p> <p>We are striving to keep to costs down as low as possible and focus less on official school branded clothing and more on generic school colours.</p>	<p>Parents are encouraged to apply for clothing grants through WLC. The school has supplies of new and nearly new uniform available for distribution.</p> <p>Gym shoes/shorts and T-shirts have been purchased by the school. Shirts and ties in the school colours have been purchased for children participating in more formal events such as choir performances. The school has purchased specific sport kits and t-shirts to ensure all pupils have access to appropriate kit when representing the school.</p>
<p><b>Travelling to school</b></p> 	<p>Simpson Primary catchment area covers Wester Inch and nearly all the pupils live within walking distance.</p>	<p>Staff are available to support parent/carers to complete transport application forms. Taxis are arranged and subsidised in the event that children are unable to attend school due to changing family circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Friendship at school</b></p> 	<p>We regularly reinforce our school value of kindness and strive to create an ethos of positive relationships, recognising the importance of these in developing our young people. Children also have trusted adults with whom they speak when things aren't going well.</p>	<p>Staff provide additional support through the nurture base and regular check-ins with identified children. This includes a focus on social skills and friendships working with our nurture teacher and PSWs.</p>

<p><b>Fun events</b></p> 	<p>The school engages in fundraising events for a mixture of both local and national charities. Our Parent Council also organises events to raise funds to support these events. We try to incorporate a range of experiences for children across the school year including trips and external providers coming into school. Teachers also work together to build fun experiences in their planning throughout the year. We have taken measures to reduce the cost of fun events such as removing the necessity to pay for Dress Down Days.</p>	<p>Costs where possible are absorbed by the school and where a charge applies for parent/carers this is kept as low as possible. The parent council organises discos and events across the school year which are heavily subsidised.</p> <p>We have taken measures to subsidise costs for children known to be impacted by poverty e.g. for school trips such as P7 residential.</p>
<p><b>Eating at school</b></p> 	<p>Breakfast club open to all pupils 8.00 - 8.30am offering free breakfast for all pupils.</p> <p>All P1-P5 pupils are entitled to a free school meal. No pupil is left hungry at school.</p> <p>Free school meals are available to collect during school holidays and closures.</p> <p><a href="https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32424/Breakfast-Clubs">https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32424/Breakfast-Clubs</a>  <a href="https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing">https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing</a>  <a href="https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/free-school-meals-holidays">https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/free-school-meals-holidays</a></p>	<p>We work with our cooking kitchen, and will order fruit, cereal, bread etc to provide a healthy breakfast and snack through nurture groups. Staff share information regarding WLC services that are available to help parents including information regarding Free School Meals. Children receiving FSM are not identified in any way.</p> <p>We encourage a cashless system where parents can order on line with help available from the school office to set up accounts.</p> <p>We make regular contact with parents who are accumulating debts within the iPay system and try to offer support to reduce these where possible.</p>
<p><b>School trips</b></p> 	<p>Excursion costs are advertised in advance, and carefully considered prior to booking. Payment plans are arranged to minimise individual payments for families.</p>	<p>Costs are kept to a minimum and the school subsidises costs where possible. Where the school is aware of potential poverty, parents/carers are supported with costs to ensure no child misses out.</p>
<p><b>School clubs</b></p> 	<p>After School Clubs are provided within the school at no extra cost. Outside coaches and providers are also sourced and subsidised to offer specialised clubs.</p> <p>All kit and transport (to and from events) is provided by the school for pupils involved in netball, football, basketball matches.</p>	<p>Clubs and school teams are open to all pupils.</p> <p>A wide range of activities are available, pupils are not required to pay and resources required will be purchased through the school.</p> <p>Additional support is offered to any family known to suffer from the effects of poverty.</p>
<p><b>Home Learning</b></p> 	<p>Stationary supplies are available in school for all pupils. Requests for resources are kept to a minimum of absolute essentials.</p>	<p>The majority of home learning is completed online with resources and support tools available via Teams.</p> <p>Pupils who do not have access to technology at home are supported via printed resources or the option to borrow an iPad or laptop from school.</p>