



Poverty Proofing Statement 2022 - 23

Staff at Cedarbank School work hard to ensure that every pupil, regardless of social or financial background, have equal access to the same opportunities as their peers.

We aim to remove any cost barriers to full participation in school life through the following measures.

- **Uniform**

Our uniform is black trousers/skirt, black jumper and white shirt/ polo shirt. The Seniors wear a blazer. While we have embroidered school tops on offer, there is no requirement for pupils to wear customised clothing. All pupils are provided with a tie. Other than not wearing football colours, there is no uniform policy for PE lessons. Where appropriate, we actively use our own School Clothing Bank and access the West Lothian School Clothing Bank to help pupils have the necessary clothing for school. When representing the school at sports events, pupils are provided with school polo shorts at no cost.

- **Travel to school**

All pupils are provided with free transport to/from school through West Lothian Council Transport Department.

- **Food**

Breakfast is available free of charge to any pupil who requires it. All pupils receive free school lunches, snacks and refreshments. In the Senior Phase, pupils have the opportunity, with parental permissions, to attend the Centre during their lunch break. Where required, the school will support families with associated costs to ensure all young people have the opportunity to participate, further developing independence.

We have a strong and positive relationship with our local Morrison's outreach and can help families access this service at any time.

- **Learning in school**

We provide all the necessary equipment for pupils to learn at school. We do not ask our learners to contribute towards pupils' subject costs, such as in Home Economics. This has also been helped this year by additional government funding. Pupils can be provided with a PE kit if necessary. If required, we provide pupils with the necessary equipment for Outdoor Learning, such as appropriate footwear. For Wider Achievement activities, such as Bike Ability we provide pupils with bicycles, including adapted bikes.

- **School trips**

There are no costs, including transport, for any school trip. Snacks, lunches and refreshments are provided for all pupils on outings. School camp is subsidised for identified pupils using our Pupil Equity Funding.

Participatory Budgeting: The Pupil Council decided that the Pupil Equity Funding should be used for subsidy or full payment to any pupil where there is a difficulty in meeting the cost of school camp, thereby ensuring that no pupil misses out on the opportunity to participate.

- **Fun events**

We consider alternative ways to celebrate Fun Events that do not involve parents/carers spending money. We take into account the timing of such events so as not to put additional financial pressure on families. The participation of pupils and their families in Fun Events is monitored to ensure that no one is left out of activities, such as school cafes. We make sure that the costs of significant Fun Events, for instance school leavers' celebrations, do not interfere with any pupil or family being able to take part. There will be a limited number of 'no uniform' days which are not compulsory and do not require contributions. Refreshments for Fun Events, like attending a pantomime, will be provided if required.

- **School clubs**

All of our lunchtime clubs are free activities.

- **Learning at home**

Homework, though encouraged, is not compulsory and any that is given must be equitable in accessibility. Staff will be mindful of individual circumstances when setting work. They may choose to issue a pupil with a homework pack. Support clubs will be offered where possible. Home learning packs will be issued to families, in line with a parent survey completed. This will include all necessary materials to complete the project and will have a skills-based focus.

- **Digital learning**

As part of our Digital Learning Strategy we will work with West Lothian Council to ensure all our families have digital connectivity. Using our Pupil Equity Funding, we have purchased additional netbooks and laptops so that in event of a home learning situation, pupils have access to the necessary equipment as appropriate. Our Digital Learning Strategy is working towards enabling all pupils and their families to have the digital skills required to support learning.

- **Personal care**

Sanitary products are always available. We make sure that pupils have a supply to cover holidays. Changes of clothes, underwear and access to personal hygiene products are provided if appropriate.

- **Family engagement events**

Refreshments will be provided at all family engagement events. Where possible, we try to provide transport to events for those families who need it. For occasions which require resources, for example our family cooking sessions, we will provide materials to those families who require them.

- **Access to financial entitlements and crisis support for families**

We make use of local organisations and charities, such as food banks, to help support family life. We work with our families to access supports for identified needs.

The following sources help cover the costs of removing the financial barriers to full participation at Cedarbank School: Pupil Equity Funding, Parent/Carer Council contributions and fundraising, external donations, income through the school's charity status and whole-school events. We work closely with social work and partner agencies to ensure pupils who are LAC have funding for school camp and the necessary equipment. We take due consideration of the number of fundraising and charity activities which are organised throughout the school year.