**Milton Primary School**

**Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

**August 2022**

At Milton Primary School, we understand that the Cost of the School Day is an area which requires constant vigilance and cannot be ‘fixed’ by any one action. We recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We examine the school day through the following headings; Uniform, Resources and Home Learning, Pupil Voice, School Excursions and Events, Catering and Clubs.

**Uniform**

Our current uniform is;

Jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt – red

Trousers – black or grey

Blouse, shirt and tie or polo shirt – white

N.B - We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts but encourage this where possible.

PE Kit – Gym shoes/trainers, black shorts and t-shirts are the desired clothing.

Uniforms can be ordered in the first instance using Parentpay via the school website <http://www.milton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/> or can be ordered from our school office. We also have suppliers at ALJ Work and Leisurewear in Lanark.

Milton Primary operates a recycling uniform scheme where parents/carers can access various items of uniform from the school ‘bubble’ – foyer entrance. This also offers jackets and we hope to extend this to shoes and gym shoes in the coming months. Any lost property will remain in school for the full academic year and then if still unclaimed will be washed and added to the uniform recycling scheme for the new session each August.

Through the session we have various pop up stalls, the includes uniforms, Halloween costumes and Christmas jumpers.

**Resources and Home Learning**

Pupils within Milton Primary School do not need to pay for any core learning activities. We have stationery boxes in all classes with pencils, rubbers, rulers and a wide variety of art supplies for all children to use. We will consult with the PTA and Parent Council if there are any additional stationery/specialised items we could provide for activities in the school for any art and design/project based learning activities.

Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and any pupil who does not complete homework will not receive a sanction. However, we do encourage pupils to complete home activities in order to consolidate learning. Throughout the year, there is a term allocated to ‘Homework Heroes’ which supports children in completing homework activities within the school environment. A homework survey in 2019 showed that the parent and pupil stance on homework found almost a 50/50 split of those in favour and those against the issuing of homework. A possible suggestion given was a ‘homework free’ term which focuses on personal reading for enjoyment – pupils will have access to the school lending library at this time. A follow up survey around homework is planned for August 2022 and results/way forward will be shared with our Parent Council and via our monthly newsletters

**Pupil Voice**

We encourage all pupils within Milton Primary School to share their opinions and have their voice heard through termly committees and pupil natter groups which all children are involved in. We ensure that any pupil experiencing any form of bullying - including poverty related bullying - are able to report this to staff members in confidence. We discuss poverty related issues with our pupils as part of our ongoing HWB assemblies, Rights Committee work and general HWB classroom based learning. We also intend to use a pupil natter session to discuss, share views and inform collective decisions about what pupils believe could help with the Cost of the School Day in Milton Primary School.

**School Excursions and Events**

Our trips are planned throughout the year to reflect learning within interdisciplinary topics. Trips are heavily subsidised by the school and we ensure no child misses this opportunity. Where possible we approach various Historic Scotland sites who provide a small travel subsidy and ensure that parental contributions are kept to a minimum. As a school any fundraising events (held bi-annually) help raise money to cover the cost of transport to events – including sporting and transition activities and any class outings.

We do not currently have a policy for families with more than one child but intend to discuss this at Parent Council and canvas parent/carers views. Our Primary 7 pupils currently attend Lockerbie Manor for a week long residential experience. The cost of this is paid in instalments throughout the session starting in Primary 6 in order to spread the cost. Consultation took place with Parent Council in session 2021/22 to look at the possibility of a reduced amount of time at the facility – 3 days, 2 nights. Which would significantly help families with the cost of this excursion. This was agreed and implemented as of session 2022/23.

External funding is used from various available grants which we use to reduce the cost of swimming lessons. The cost of in-house treats including pantomimes and parties are covered (or again heavily subsidised) by our PTA.

Milton Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We are sensitive when asking for money throughout the year for various charities or in-house events and try to only support one or two different charities each year. There is a sponsored event every other year which we use to pay for resources needed by the school and also toward transport costs for trips. We recognise that not all families are able to contribute, however, all children have the opportunity to take part in sponsored events. We aim to avoid any additional charity events during the Christmas period which incur further spending.

**Catering**

All children within P1-5 currently receive free school meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we try to reduce this by using an online registration and ordering system for lunches which does not discriminate between paid and free meals. All children are issued with coloured bands relating to their choice of meal irrespective of paid or free.

**School Clubs**

Children tend to travel via car, walking or bus. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs therefore we endeavour to provide lunchtime club activities throughout the year as well as after school.

At Milton Primary School we are very lucky to have a range of free clubs including football, netball, tennis, games , Glee choir, cookery, STEM and homework heroes. We also try and have short 5 week clubs where coaches are paid to deliver various sporting activities after school. All clubs which require specific equipment e.g. tennis racquets etc are provided for the pupils by the school. We may look to extending the recycled uniform scheme to include football boots/trainers for the afterschool football/sports clubs.

To be review August 2023