

## Lornshill Academy Cost of the School Day

In January 2018 End Child Poverty published figures estimating that one in four children in Scotland were living in poverty, Clackmannanshire mirrors this trend. Lornshill Academy is committed to ensuring all our pupils have equal opportunity to succeed at school, regardless of their financial situation. Therefore it is important we understand all the costs associated with children attending school on a daily basis. School costs which are difficult to meet can mean young people miss out on the full range of opportunities available to them. Poverty can lead to young people feeling excluded or embarrassed which makes it difficult for young people to learn, to achieve and to be happy at school.

We used the Cost of the School Day Toolkit, developed by Child Poverty Action group, to help us identify and overcome any barriers that children may face in terms of the costs associated with participation and engagement at school. In Lornshill Academy our consultation involved pupils, parents and staff who completed questionnaires and participated in focus groups.

### Findings of Consultation

The consultation highlighted many areas where Lornshill Academy policies and strategies were successful in mitigating the potential impact of poverty. These included:

- Simplified, unbranded uniform which allows parents to buy uniform from any supplier.
- Finger print payment for all meals - non stigma for pupils receiving FSM.
- School Trips and other costs can be paid in instalments to ensure affordability.
- Breakfast club which is staffed and free to pupils.
- Equipment is available for pupils use, including PE kit and ICT resources.

However, as we constantly strive to improve, four areas were identified and will be the focus of our COTSD Action Plan.

- 1) Uniform
- 2) Learning at School
- 3) Eating in School
- 4) School Trips

**COTSD Action Plan**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Issue Identified</b>	<b>Baseline Information</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<b>Interventions</b>	<b>All staff should consider</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Evaluati on Date</b>	<b>Leads</b>
<b>Uniform</b>	1.School Clothing Grant	1 .Most parents knew of SCG but wanted increased availability/help to complete application.	1. Increased availability of SGC in school. Increased uptake of SCG.	1 .SGC promoted via APP, website, Twitter. SCG forms/help available at all parents evenings.	Speak to pupil support staff if you are concerned re uniform	Aug 19	Jan 20	
	2.Replacing uniform	2. All agreed with simplified, unbranded uniform but replacing uniform mid-year was difficult for families.	2. Greater reported affordability of uniform.	2. Uniform Swap Shop for replacement uniform.		Aug 19	Jan 20	
	3.Senior uniform/blazers	3. Senior uniform (blazers) was identified as financial pressure.	3. Greater reported affordability of senior uniform	3.Uniform Swap Shop/reconditioned blazers.		Aug 19	Jan 20	
<b>Learning at School</b>	1.Supported Study	1.Pupils reported difficulty getting home due to cost of service bus.	1.Greater attendance at Supported study by low income pupils.	1.Bus passes issued for supported study sessions/extra-curricular clubs.	Issue bus passes (school office) during supported study session/extra curricular.	Aug 19	Oct 19	
	2.Subject Charges	Curriculum charges for Home Ec, D&T.	Identifying if curricular charges impacts pupil subject choice	Pilot subsidising curricular charges for D&T.		Aug 19	Mar 20	

	3.Equipment	Senior pupils reported difficulty affording graphic calculators/ICT	All senior pupils can borrow any equipment they need to participate in chosen subjects	Graphic calculators available to borrow for year. Greater availability of ICT resources.	Provide equipment to borrow during lessons (inc past papers)	Aug 19	Oct 19	
<b>Eating in School</b>	1.Cost/portion size of School lunch.	Pupils reported high cost and small portion size of school lunches.	Examine value for money re school lunches	School will raise concerns with Clacks Council. Promote packed lunches.	Tutors discuss lunch menu to help pupils plan spending.	Aug 19	Jan 20	
	2.FSM	All felt FSM allowance insufficient amount to cover daily food costs.	Greater support for pupils with FSM to plan spending	Lunch spending plan available for all pupils		Aug 19	Jan 20	
<b>School Trips</b>	1.School Trips/Events	Pupil/Parents stated trips were beyond the reach of some families. Seniors have expensive events through the year.	Variety of extra curricular events/trips so all pupils can participate.	School trips and a calendar of S6 events which can be paid in instalments throughout year to cover prom/year book etc. Fundraising used to reduce costs.	Trip leaders provide breakdown of instalment costs/timescale.	Aug 19	Mar 20	
	2. Reward Trips	Trips linked to pupils achieving our ABOUT standards should be charged for.	All pupils who have achieved our ABOUT standards will participate in our Rewards week.	Whole school rewards week with pupils having opportunity to try a variety of extra curricular/outside learning opportunities.	All activities which involve costs should have written permission from H McMaihin.	Oct 19	June 20	

