



Aviemore Primary School – ‘Cost of the School Day’ Policy

Rationale

Cost of the School Day refers to the costs associated with children’s participation and engagement at school. Our policy is designed to identify and remove barriers for children from low income families or any family who may experience a period of financial pressure.

What do we do in our school?

Fundraising Calendar

Each year we issue a Fundraising Calendar at the start of the academic session in August. This lists the planned fundraising events for the year ahead and notes if the beneficiaries are local, national or international causes. This enables families to plan ahead and be aware of upcoming events and the associated costs. At fundraising events we ask for a donation instead of a specified amount.

Uniform Exchange

Our Parent Council operate a Uniform Exchange in the foyer outside our school. Parents/carers are encouraged to hand in items of uniform their children have grown out of and swap them for another item. Parents/carers are welcome to take items without a donation too. The focus of this project is part of our sustainability work and therefore there is no stigma attached to using this facility.

Dressing up

We are mindful of the cost of dressing up days and try to ensure low cost options e.g dress in a specific colour or in PJs. At Halloween and Christmas we add Halloween costumes and Christmas jumpers to our Uniform exchange.

School Meals

Children in our ELC and P1-5 are eligible for free meals, funded by the Scottish Government. Means tested free school meals and clothing grants are provided for children who are eligible to receive this support.

Tuckshop

We operate a healthy tuckshop where all items are priced at 30p. Children who do not have enough money are provided with snack in a discreet way from the tuckshop or a separate store of snacks in the office area. Classes where children use this often are provided with their own stock of snacks.

Monday Munch

Each Monday one of our classes host the ‘Monday Munch’ – providing a meal with an open invitation to everyone in the community. The meal (e.g soup and sandwiches) is made using donations of near use-by date produce donated by local supermarkets and food grown in our own garden. Children also share learning with the attendees about Sustainable Development Goals and the UNCRC and in particular learn about Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production.

Policy Date: December 2023

Reviewed: February 2024

Review Date: 2026/27

Stationery

All stationery required for class is provided. All P1 children are gifted a bookbag from school when they start with us.

Sanitary Products

Free sanitary products are available in various locations throughout the school. Children in the upper school are made aware of how to access them.

Books

As part of our Reading Schools Accreditation we have a book swap shop in our entrance foyer alongside the Uniform Exchange. We have a selection of adult's and children's books that are free to be taken or swapped. We facilitate the Scottish Government's early literacy schemes and gift 'Bookbug' bags to Nursery and P1 children as well as 'Read, Write, Count' bags to P2 and P3 children. We include parents/carers in the gifting of these books which are accompanied with learning resources.

Amazon Wishlists

Parents/carers who wish to make further donations to support school can do so through the Amazon wishlists and buy a specific product requested by their child's class.

Residential and School trips

Each year our P7 children attend a residential experience. This is planned a year in advance and the cost shared with parents whilst children are still in P6. Parents/carers are given the option of monthly and quarterly payment plans. Funding is available for families who require support.

Our Parent Council kindly agreed to pay towards the transport for our school trips and we make every effort to ensure the activities are free or as low cost as possible. (For some activities, funding is applied for to reduce costs to parents.) Our Parent Council also support us with funding for termly House Treats. BSSSA subsidise snowsports lessons for our P7 pupils.

There is no cost for academic activities.

Help when needed

We are fortunate to have support from Kingussie Parish Church who provide coats and shoes for children on request. The HT completes referrals and the parent is discreetly given a voucher to then go and choose items in a local shop.

At Christmas time we refer families for food bags from the Badenoch and Strathspey Food Hub and MFR Cash for Kids gifts.

We also work with organisations such as HALO who can provide support for resources for younger children and 'Roots and Shoots' who offer funded places on their holiday playschemes.

