

# ST PETER'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL



# COST



# OF THE SCHOOL



# DAY



# POSITION STATEMENT





## St Peter's R.C. Primary School

### Cost of the School Day Position Statement

*'Tacking cost barriers may not always cost money but may simply mean doing things differently. Children, young people and parents tell us that even small changes can make a big difference.'*  
([Cost of the School Day Toolkit](#), 2023).

The Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland states that schools must demonstrate 'a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all.' ([Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland](#), 2020). This commitment includes building awareness of the Corporal Works of Mercy, many of which are applicable when considering the cost of the school day and our decision-making in relation to this.

**CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

1. To feed the hungry (Matthew 25:35)
2. To give drink to the thirsty (Matthew 25:35)
3. To clothe the naked (Matthew 25:36)
4. To shelter the homeless (Matthew 25:35)
5. To visit the sick (Matthew 25:36)
6. To visit the imprisoned (Matthew 25:35)
7. To bury the dead (Matthew 25:40)






**SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**







1. To instruct the ignorant (Matthew 16:15)
2. To counsel the doubtful (John 14:27)
3. To admonish sinners (Luke 15:7)
4. To bear wrongs patiently (Luke 6:27-28)
5. To forgive offences willingly (Matthew 6:12)
6. To comfort the sorrowful (Matthew 11:28)
7. To pray for the living and the dead (John 17:24)

The "Cost of the School Day" was initially set up in Glasgow in 2014 to identify cost barriers that prevent some children from fully taking part in school and what could be done to address them. Since then, a [national toolkit](#) has been launched by Child Poverty Action Group to support all school communities to consider ways they can 'poverty-proof' their school.

At St. Peter's R.C. Primary School, we are committed to reducing the Cost of the School Day for all of our pupils and families. As a school, we have recently consulted our staff, pupils and families to find out more about some of the costs involved in school and come up with ways for mitigating some of these costs.

We have collated ideas from our staff, pupils and parents in the below table.

Potential barrier / cost	Information, including mitigations / strategies to support
<p><b>School Uniform &amp; Clothing</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils wear a blue polo shirt, dark navy blue jumper / cardigan, dark trousers, shorts or skirt and dark shoes. There is the option of a light blue gingham summer dress in the warmer months.</li> <li>• Parents are given details of our uniform supplier (<a href="#">Schoolwear Made Easy</a>) at the time of enrolment. Along with this, we share that uniform in our colours can also be purchased from many of the major supermarkets.</li> <li>• We have recently received grant funding from Suez to purchase clothing rails and hangers. We aim to hold uniform swap shop and clothing donation events for families, working with partner agencies to support here. Donations of school uniform in good condition are always welcome.</li> <li>• Parents / carers can approach the school in confidence for a referral to be made to <a href="#">Abernecessities</a> for clothing and uniform for both home and school.</li> <li>• School Clothing Grant information is available (including eligibility criteria) on the <a href="#">Aberdeen City Council</a> website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food in school: School meals and snacks</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a healthy eating approach in school. Pupils are asked to only bring one piece of fruit to school for snack.</li> <li>• Russell Anderson Development School (RADS) kindly supply school with fruit provisions for class fruit bowls. These are accessed by pupils in families who may be facing financial challenges.</li> <li>• Currently, all pupils in P1-5 receive Free School Meals in line with current Scottish Government policy.</li> <li>• Information for Free School Meals benefit (including eligibility criteria) can be found on the <a href="#">Aberdeen City Council</a> website. This includes information for P1-P5 pupils, where parents can still apply to receive vouchers during holiday periods if they meet the criteria.</li> <li>• Support / signposting can be arranged through school for access to emergency food supplies or foodbanks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning (including home learning)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial contributions are not sought for any core learning activities in school. All resources (including books and stationery) are provided by the school.</li> <li>• Pupils are encouraged <b>not</b> to bring their own pencil cases / stationery from home to lower the cost of the school day.</li> <li>• If materials are required for home learning activities, these will be provided by school.</li> <li>• If pupils do not have access to internet / a device at home, time in class will be provided for any set home learning activities.</li> <li>• Our school's Pupil Equity Funding, allocated to the school on an annual basis, is used to fund specific educational interventions. These will directly benefit learners, with a particular focus on raising attainment and achievement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Access to Books</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every pupil has digital access to books to support home learning through "Boost Learning" (upper school) and Oxford Owl (lower school).</li> <li>• We carry out regular book swap events on World Book Day and other key times of the year.</li> <li>• We organise for all pupils to receive a book with their World Book Day token, in collaboration with our local book shop (Blackwell's Books, Old Aberdeen).</li> <li>• We distribute <a href="#">Bookbug Bags</a> for P1-P3 pupils each year.</li> <li>• We encourage all pupils to <a href="#">join their local library</a> for free.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Trips</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our trips are planned to compliment learning experiences in school and provide pupils with wider experiences.</li> <li>• We seek lots of opportunities in the local area within walking distance with no cost involved.</li> <li>• Some trips do have a cost involved. We seek support from parent council, donations from local businesses, grant funding, our school fund and our Pupil Equity Funding for most trips.</li> <li>• On occasions, we will ask parents to support with the cost of a trip. This will be no more than £5 and a maximum of once per year for each class. Plenty of notice will be given to support parents with saving for this.</li> </ul>

Potential barrier / cost	Information, including mitigations / strategies to support
<p><b>P7: Residential Trip (Tomintoul) Ties Hoodies</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our P7 residential trip (currently to Tomintoul) is planned and reviewed annually, with costs being carefully considered. We make use of donation funding from the church to heavily subsidise the trip.</li> <li>• Families are given as much notice as possible for the trip and cost for families (usually by September of P7) and can pay in instalments throughout the year.</li> <li>• Families can also apply for funding through <a href="#">Aberdeen Endowments Trust</a> for financial support for their contribution to the cost of the trip.</li> <li>• P7s are notified in June for the cost of hoodies, and can wear these for their P7 year. Ties are optional for P7s, and notice is also given in June for the cost of these.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Events: Non-uniform days Fundraisers / sponsored events Fayres School discos</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recognise that additional events, planned to support fundraising and for enjoyment, can incur a cost to families. We plan events with care, ensuring they are spread throughout the school year.</li> <li>• All events are planned for all pupils (and families where appropriate) can take part, regardless of financial circumstances.</li> <li>• All fundraisers and events have a suggested donation, but there is no requirement / expectation for this. Payments (where given) are taken as a donation and not counted out at the time of donation.</li> <li>• Our charities and community pupil voice group have a clear plan for fundraising and other events for the year in school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Extracurricular Activities</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work with a range of partners to plan extra-curricular activities for our pupils, including Russell Anderson Development School (RADS), Active Schools Aberdeen and our family learning team.</li> <li>• We are committed to ensuring that we do not charge for extra-curricular events taking place in school.</li> <li>• We regularly share details by email / in our monthly Sway newsletters for extra-curricular and school holiday opportunities and events.</li> <li>• We provide timely reminders for parents / carers for booking the Easter, Summer and Autumn in the City school holiday activities for pupils, which are all free to access.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gifts</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no expectation for pupils to give gifts to staff or other pupils. We would encourage families not to give gifts to support our cost of the school day position.</li> <li>• To support our work in maintaining our eco schools green flag, and to keep costs down for families, we ask that pupils and staff do not give Christmas cards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Travel to School</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support our Active Travel Plan, we encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school where possible / where distance allows. Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) share tips and support learning throughout the year about being safe when coming to school.</li> <li>• We promote the <a href="#">free bus travel scheme</a> (Scottish Government) for all pupils having a bus pass. This also supports us to keep the cost of some trips down by taking local transport for free.</li> <li>• Information is shared about local authority transport for Roman Catholic pupils living more than 2 miles walking distance from our school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sacramental Events</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We always write out to parents giving at least 5 months' notice for Sacramental events at St Peter's Church. By doing this, we hope to give plenty of notice for families travelling from overseas and for buying any items needed (such as outfits or candles) These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- P3 First Confession (during school day at St Peter's Church)</li> <li>- P4 First Holy Communion (usually on a Saturday in May)</li> <li>- P7 Confirmation (usually on a Thursday evening in June).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We encourage parents to donate outfits for First Holy Communions to allow families the option of purchasing these for a low price.</li> </ul>

## **Financial Support**

- The [MyGov.Scot](#) website contains information about a range of benefits available to families, including the [five family benefits](#) from Social Security Scotland.
- The [Aberdeen City Council benefits and money advice team](#) can provide a range of support and advice for parents / carers.
- [Cfine](#) and [Instant Neighbour](#) are two local organisations which provide money advice and support.
- You can also reach out in confidence to the Head Teacher (Liam Sturrock) at St Peter's School if you require support with financial challenges.

## **Ongoing review of our Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

We recognise that our commitment to reducing the Cost of the School Day is one which requires constant review. Our forward planning is carried out with cost implications in mind, and our available funding is carefully managed to ensure that pupils have access to a high quality education and school experience.

Our consultation with all stakeholders, including pupils and parents, will continue, with changes being made on an ongoing basis to ensure that the Cost of the School Day is kept to a minimum.

<b>Policy creation date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>Staff consultation</b>	Staff contributed to this policy during a staff meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2024.
<b>Pupil consultation</b>	Our pupil council gathered ideas from all classes to contribute to this policy in October 2024.
<b>Parent consultation</b>	Our parents were surveyed for their views on cost of the school day and ideas to support reducing costs during parents nights on 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.
<b>Policy review</b>	This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and a new policy will replace this current policy if any changes / updates are made.