



# COST OF SCHOOL DAY 2024

## *Statement of Action to Address the Cost of the School Day at Linlithgow Academy*

All of our staff are aware of the effects of poverty and how it pertains to the context of our school and our young people.

With regards to the items below we have measures and strategies in place which help our young people and their families with school costs to ensure that all of our young people can participate, learn and achieve/attain their potential.

**Uniform:** We believe that a strong and responsive uniform policy helps our pupils feel more included and allows our pupils to be a recognisable part of their community. This is achieved through our S.A.F.E uniform policy which can be viewed here:

<https://linlithgowacademy.westlothian.org.uk/article/74788/Our-S-A-FE-School-Uniform-Policy>

However, we are aware of the unavoidable costs associated with uniform, from the purchase of the uniform itself to the need to replace it during the year due to wear and tear or simply outgrowing it, not to mention bags, shoes, jackets and PE kits. Therefore, we provide all families who require support a uniform pack as part of the P7-S1 Transition process. This includes shirts, trousers, a school tie and basic items of PE kit. All S1 pupils will receive a free school tie as do any new pupils to our school community.

**Travel and trips:** At Linlithgow Academy, we subsidise travel costs associated with identified school excursions for targeted families, to allow all young people to participate. We give consideration to all trips to ensure that costs are kept down, making them as accessible as possible for young people and their families. We plan all trips in advance to allow families the opportunity to save and spread the cost. We also closely monitor the number of trips, costs and year groups. To ensure all young people can access opportunities for trips, we offer free opportunities specifically for targeted young people who receive Free School Meals, such as day trips out with the Ranger Service/ Christmas pantomime etc.

**Resources:** All classrooms in Linlithgow Academy have essential supplies such as pencils/calculators etc. for all young people to access in lessons. Furthermore, we provide stationery packs for families who may require support as part of the P7-S1 Transition process. They include pencil cases, pencils, pens, calculator etc. We have removed associated costs of subjects such as Home Economics and CDT for all families. All eligible young people also receive a school locker free of charge.

**Eating:** Our canteen offers a range of healthy and low cost meals and snacks. We promote Free School Meals and share information for all parents/carers about it at various times throughout the year. Cashless catering means there is less stigma attached. Furthermore, we offer "Soft Starts" in our Small Group Settings for young people who require breakfast and nurture support.

**Homework:** We allow young people access to IT and other facilities that they may not have at home via a Lunch Club, to complete their homework. IT devices are also supplied on a long term loan as required. We use Microsoft Teams and OneNote through Glow that all pupils have free access to. We issue laptops and Wifi access to FME students who don't have their own device or internet access. Staff are available to offer support where required. Teaching staff are mindful that not all young people can access an online homework provision therefore paper copies are always available if appropriate.

**Events:** Fundraising events in our school, such as non-uniform days, require a donation only if possible. We limit the number of these events and spread them throughout the year. We provide support for targeted young people to attend/take part in events throughout the school year. For example, targeted young people do not pay for disco tickets, snacks etc and we cover the cost of transport home where required.

**Period Products:** As part of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill, free period products are available in a range of locations around Linlithgow Academy including toilets and classrooms as well as Wellbeing and Pastoral offices for anyone who needs them. It is essential that students can access sanitary products without having to ask for them so that they maintain their dignity with no embarrassment.

**Other Initiatives:** We are in regular contact with West Lothian Clothing Bank to help young people/carers who are struggling with the cost of clothing/shoes etc. We also work with River Kids to help families in providing gifts for birthdays and Christmas. Families are signposted to the Families and Young People's advice service for help with Advice on current grants, Benefit advice, and the general issue with the "cost of the school day"

#### **Actions for session 2024.2025**

- Update school website with more information and links to support families and young people experiencing poverty related issues
- Update Inclusion and Equity Policy to increase awareness of protected characteristics and procedures
- Pupil Parliament will consider further measures that could be implemented to reduce the cost of the school day