

## Poverty Proofing Statement: Parkhead Primary School

All staff are aware of the effects of poverty and the relevance within the context of our school and young people.

### Getting Dressed for School



#### **Universal:**

School uniform is a white/red/black polo shirt and school jumper. Pupils have the option to wear an embroidered on un-embroidered jumper. Any shorts and t-shirt are acceptable for PE with the exception of football strips.

Children who arrive at school without uniform are offered a school jumper to wear and take home to ensure they are not only part of the school community but also have warm enough clothing for the school day.

#### **Targeted:**

We have a recycled school uniform bank at all parent/carer events. We have new uniforms available to pupils who need them along with indoor shoes for pupils who do not have a change of shoes. Parents/carers are supported with applications to clothing grants and we support families through the clothing bank.

A recent 'Cost of the School Day' survey indicated that parents found uniforms cost them the most money.

As a result of this survey we ran a 'Winter Warmer' clothing drive in the colder months during which we asked for donations of warm clothing including gloves, hats, scarves, jackets and warm jumpers etc. Parents/carers were able to visit our winter clothing shop run by P7 pupils on Friday mornings. Uniforms were also available to parents during this clothing drive. This allowed us to ensure parents were more aware of the help we can provide as a school. We found that parents were more comfortable coming to a 'shop' to collect uniforms rather than asking for help with uniforms.

We also ran this with the support of West Calder High School who donated a number of ladies winter coats which meant that whole families were being supported and not just individual pupils. Visitors to the shop were able to take items they required for free or had the option of making a donation to the school.

Cost of leavers hoodies are subsidised by the PPA and school fun to ensure all P7 leavers receive a hoodie.





## Travelling to School

### **Universal:**

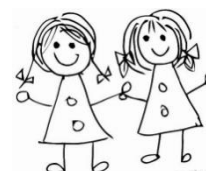
The majority of our children live within walking distance to the school. After school clubs run in school or WCHS where there is no need to travel any distance.

For those children living in Polbeth and outlying rural areas the school has a designated bus and minibus service. Transport travelling expenses are paid for children attending their catchment school if they live more than one and a half miles from the school. Where there is no public transport, contract buses are provided.

### **Targeted:**

School office staff provide support to those requiring assistance to complete transport applications.

## Friendships at School



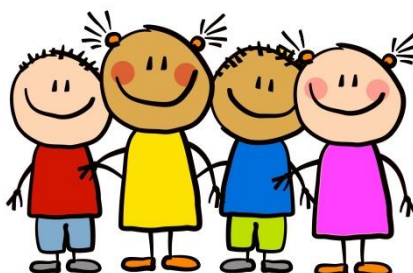
### **Universal:**

Uniform is promoted to negate any peer pressure for branded and fashion clothing. While there is a device policy in schools, all pupils have access to digital technology in school. Our school values have been refreshed to ensure the ethos is one which promotes respect, inclusion and equity. We have revised our school rules and take a restorative approach to supporting pupils with building positive relationships with their friends and peers.

Children have opportunities to take part in Junior Leadership Groups which allows them to join in activities with pupils who have similar interests.

### **Targeted:**

Social skills support groups are well established to support children develop their communication and social skills. We have mini-nurture groups running regularly. Children requiring additional support are offered places in Eco Groups, Lego Resilience groups as well as the John Muir Award Group. All of these groups target pupils who require opportunities to build confidence in social situations and develop their peer relationships and friendships. Social skills groups are also run by staff from the Inclusion and Wellbeing Service to support those with additional support needs.





## Learning at School



### **Universal:**

Stationary is provided for all classes to access at all time. There are options for resources to be borrowed to support learning i.e. devices, dictionaries, rulers, calculators, scissors, glue.

### **Targeted:**

Bespoke learning plans are created for pupils who require additional support. This is monitored termly through excellence and equity meetings. Positive response plans are in place to support positive behaviour for individuals. IEP reviews are held regularly providing learning targets for those who require support for their learning. Children actively take part in setting their targets and have a leadership role in review meetings carried out. Children who require mental wellbeing support are allocated a key member of staff to check-in with on a daily basis. Transition passports are created for identified pupils across all stages when meeting new teachers and moving on to a new class.



## School Trips

### **Universal:**

We plan school trips in advance to ensure parents/carers are notified in a timely manner. Class trips are limited to one annually to reduce the cost. We subsidise the cost of trips by using the school fund to pay for transport. All pupils have the opportunity to attend residential experiences throughout their time at Primary School. School trips can be paid up in instalments through Ipay and we actively encourage pupils to join the credit union.

### **Targeted:**

PEF pupils are offered places at a reduced rate and where possible, trip costs are waived for those from low income families.

Pupils run enterprise projects to raise funds to reduce the cost of end of year excursions i.e. P7 end of year trip.

Senior leadership team support families and sign post them for financial help if and when required.

Clothing and necessary items for camp and excursions are provided by staff for those pupils who may need them.

## Fun Events



### **Universal:**

Fun events such as dress down days are donation only. We ask for donations at fundraisers. PPA events i.e. family film day are donations only.

### **Targeted:**

Free tickets to events such as the Pantomime and WCHS Dance Showcase are offered to PEF pupils.

## Eating at School



### **Universal:**

Our school website and has continual links to FSM and milk applications. Cashless catering means there are fewer stigmas attached to pupils eligible for free school meals.

The school operates free breakfast club for all pupils. This is heavily promoted to all new families and pupils in our school.

### **Targeted:**

For those who are late to school or have not had breakfast, support staff and, the SLT and teachers operate a check-in system for vulnerable pupils and breakfast is provided.

A stock of snacks are kept in the school to ensure pupils who do not have a snack are able to have one. This is offered to all pupils therefore there is no stigma attached to asking for a snack.

During a recent survey, parents identified providing snacks to pupils as something that is the most costly. As a result, our Pupil Council have decided to run a break time 'tuck shop' that allows children to have a free piece of fruit for their snacks.

Water bottles have been purchased to provide every pupil with a free, refillable, water bottle.

During our monthly 'Coffee and Chat' sessions with parents, a member of the office staff is available to discuss and support parents through the FSM application process. This is aimed at providing technical support and guidance along with support reading and filling in documents.



## **Attitudes Towards Poverty**



### **Universal:**

School staff have good relationships, awareness, knowledge and understanding of the children and families in our school. Our curriculum is in the process of being refreshed to allow us the opportunity to explore the issues surrounding poverty. All pupils are part of a Junior Leadership Group where they discuss and take action on certain topics including; community links, cost of the school day, developing the young workforce and health and wellbeing.

### **Targeted:**

Our staff offer regular drop-in sessions and speak with individual families in regards to supporting and sign posting to help available. We have positive multi-agency and partnership working, which offers support for those that require individualised input.

Our Pupil Council has taken part in participatory budgeting activities linked to school improvement by developing our therapeutic space. They have also begun to use the Cost of the School Day toolkit to raise awareness of the need to reduce financial barriers to participation at school. Pupils have opportunities to discuss issues surrounding poverty and how it affects them through participation in the Pupil Council Junior Leadership Group.

To gain parent/carer's opinions and experiences on issues surrounding poverty we sent out a survey to gain insight into what financial barriers they face linked to their child's participation at school.

## **School Clubs**



### **Universal:**

All in school led/organised after school clubs are run by school staff and are free of charge. Where an external coach is used and a small charge is applied, our staff team can organise funding through PEF where appropriate to ensure these can be accessed by all of our children. Our clubs take place in school or in West Calder High School which requires no transportation.

### **Targeted:**

Our staff team signpost and encourage families to attend school clubs and activities. The SLT track and monitor pupils who have attended after school clubs through excellence and equity meetings ensuring all pupils have opportunities to attend clubs if they desire.





## **Home Learning**

### **Universal:**

Home learning does not rely on ICT. If this is needed, laptops are provided by the school as well as paper copies of work to ensure all pupils have access to home learning activities.

### **Targeted:**

Our staff run homework support sessions to offer help/advice and support when required.

## **Staff Team**

Our staff are committed to helping reduce the cost of the school day and to narrow the poverty related attainment gap.

