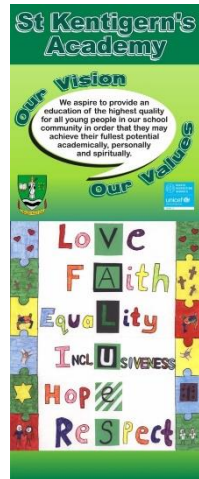




Cost of the School Day Statement

St Kentigern's Academy



In St Kentigern's we have a broad range of initiatives across all aspects of the school day with a view to reducing the cost of the school day for students and their families.

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

Our school uniform consists of:

- Blazer
- Black trousers / skirt
- White shirt
- Tie
- Black footwear

We believe that a strong uniform policy helps our students feel more included and allows our students to be a recognisable part of their community. 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 inform us that they require support with a uniform pack as part of the P7-S1 Transition process. This includes shirts, trousers, a school tie and basic items of PE kit.

We have a welfare fund that we use to supply items of uniform to students in need, supported by our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). New and pre-owned blazers are available for students. The school also holds a stock of new trousers, skirts, and shirts in a range of sizes which we give to students we know are in need of items of uniform. Members of the student support team regularly make applications to The School Bank WL to access uniform supplies for our students.

Through PEF funding, the PE department have purchased a significant amount of PE kit and trainers that they provide to students who are unable to access kit from home. Both the Family Link Worker and the Financial Inclusion Officer work with families to signpost them to clothing grants and, where required, purchase uniform via the school's welfare fund for those who need it.

Travel

Almost all of our students live in surrounding villages and towns and travel to and from school in buses provided by the local authority. All travel to and from extra-curricular activities (outwith funded trips), and where students are unable to travel using their Young Scot card, is paid for from the school fund, PEF allocation and is free to students.

Students are supported with transport solutions in instances where they have represented the school in an event/activity and their parents do not have the means to collect them from the school afterwards to ensure they are still able to participate.

We also subsidise travel costs associated with identified school excursions, where possible and for targeted families, to allow all young people to participate

This session, 50% of our supported study offerings will be online to allow students who need to travel home on the school bus to be able to participate. Travel for senior students who attend West Lothian College on a part-time basis or for Friday afternoon courses is provided free of charge.

We have encouraged and supported students to apply for the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme Scotland.

Additional Curricular Opportunities

We seek to enhance our mainstream curriculum for targeted students, to ensure their needs are being fully met. We have identified students for whom we are able to make additional alternative and specialist provisions to meet their individual needs.

We work in partnership with several agencies who provide a wide variety of support and opportunities for our students. These include training and qualifications in hospitality, counselling services, outdoor experiences and qualifications, experience of a variety of physical activities and support with bridging the gap from home to school. All of these opportunities are at no additional cost to the students and their families.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The school runs a number of clubs and activities to widen the experiences of our students. Most of these clubs take place within the school day due to transport issues after school and all are free for students to participate in.

Educational Excursions

Any trips with a cost associated are carefully considered, planned in advance and have a manageable payment schedule for parents and carers. We have set up funding to provide equity of opportunity for our students. We aim to ensure that those who may otherwise not be able to take part in educational and wider experiences due to financial constraints, can have the same opportunities as other young people. We contribute to, or indeed fully fund trips where required, to ensure that all young people are given opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities and participate in other educational visits and trips.

Resources

We focus on providing resources to ensure that no students are disadvantaged by a lack of appropriate resources.

All classrooms in St Kentigern's Academy have essential supplies such as pencils/calculators etc. for all young people to access in lessons. We continue to provide IT resources to a significant number of young people support their learning at home. This includes loans of laptops, netbooks, routers and mobile phone data cards. We have removed associated costs of subjects such as Home Economics and CDT for all families.

Free School Meals and In-School Catering

We actively promote, encourage and support eligible families to claim Free Meal Entitlement (FME). We operate a cashless catering system, which ensures that there is no stigma involved as all students use the same system. The after-school study club on a Tuesday night in February-March provides free pizza to all attending students. There is a breakfast club running that provides free breakfast to targeted students at their morning check in. All nurture students are also able to access food in the nurture room during their nurture sessions and as necessary at other times.

Homework

We allow young people access to IT and other facilities that they may not have at home to complete their homework. We use Microsoft Teams, Achieve and OneNote in Glow and all students have free access to these online resources. 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.

Dress Down Days and Fundraising Activities

We have consciously reduced significantly the number of dress down days and fundraising activities we hold in the school with 'donations' and gifts of food, etc., being taken for charitable collections as opposed to a set cost to reduce the burden on families. 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 event tickets, snacks, etc. and we cover the cost of transport home where required.

Other Supports

We have updated our website to help provide easy access to information to help families support their young person's journey through St Kentigern's Academy. We work with partner agencies to offer confidential support counselling service which all students can access. Throughout the duration of the current construction work in our school, there is no additional cost to families.

More information is available at

Poverty Proofing our School/Cost of the School Day - St Kentigern's Academy (westlothian.org.uk)

and information on financial support for families, including how to contact our Financial Inclusion Officer, is available at

https://stkentigersacademy.westlothian.org.uk/Support_for_Parents