

# Cost of the School Day

We recently surveyed our parents/carers on the subject of Cost of the School Day. We received 45 responses. 89% of parents/carers reported that uniform is the biggest cost for families, while 49% reported that trips were a big expense. We have consulted with all of our stakeholders and identified solutions to minimise costs to families sending children to school and to prevent barriers to learning for all children at James Aiton Primary School.

## Uniforms

We currently operate a Uniform Swap Shop. This is located under the stairs at our senior door and is accessible to all parents/carers throughout the school year. Request forms are issued twice per year to families to ensure anonymity. Parents on certain benefits can also access clothing grants to help with uniform costs. A link to SLC website can be found on our school website

## Home Learning

Although most home learning tasks have little or no cost, there are exceptions that can create difficulties for children from low income households, e.g.crafts, ICT research tasks, printers, etc. We offer: Weekly Homework Club (every Wednesday 3pm-4pm), Free access to ICT/printers, Family Learning activities, Tailored individual support as/when required.Please report any concerns to staff to allow us to identify areas to support pupils.

## Fundraising Events

Special days, events and activities are a fun part of school life and often raise valuable funds. However such events can create difficulties for some children due to lack of immediate funds and feeling embarrassed or marginalised if they are unable to take part. Non-uniform days are held on the first Friday of every month to help with other costs. A voluntary donation of £1 is requested.

## Transport/Early Start

Most of our children walk to school and some are dropped off by parents/carers. We encourage our pupils to cycle or bring their bikes to school. We operate a free breakfast club every morning from 8:15am and every class has access to free snacks so our children do not go hungry throughout the school day. We also have a Nurture Room that provides toast 'Grab & Go' for children who need breakfast

## School Clubs

We offer a range of lunchtime and after-school clubs, most of which are free or at low cost. These clubs are a valuable resource for children; making new interests and experiences accessible to them. However, small costs can still stand in the way of participation. If a pupil feels that there is a reason that they cannot participate because of a lack of resource/equipment, they should approach a member of staff for help. #nobARRIER

## School Trips

We strive to subsidise all school trips using the money generated from school funds/dress down days, etc. Our Parent Council also work hard to support the cost of trips across the year. All trips are usually arranged to enrich learning experiences and we ensure that no child is left behind. For more expensive trips, we offer plenty of notice in advance so that families can pay in instalments. Families who need support are always encouraged to speak to the school in confidence and we will do our best to help.

## Eating at School

Lack of food/poor nutrition are realities for some children. Food costs can be significant and receiving Free School Meals can help. However not all families entitled to free school meals apply for them or not every child receiving free meals, takes them. We can direct/support families to apply for free school meals. We also offer a free breakfast club (daily 8.15am-8.45am.

