**Poverty Proofing Statement**

**The Cost of the School Day**

At Deans Community High School we endeavour to ensure that every student can access all aspects of their education. Currently **1 in 4** children in Scotland live in poverty. While it is clear that issues surrounding the ways to tackle poverty are society based, not just related to school, it is clear we have our own part to play in working to lessen some of the issues faced by pupils and parents who are confronted with the often daily dilemmas of providing support for their child’s school experience.

This statement is to share with you the ways Deans Community High School hope to ensure that all of our students can access the full range of experiences on offer by removing costs that are barriers to education.

**Families on low incomes may be eligible to receive free school meals and milk for their children. There are also grants available to help towards the cost of school clothing.**

**Applications for the 2022/2023 academic year can now be accepted.**

Families in receipt of the following will be eligible for a School Clothing Grant:

* Income Support / Pension Credit
* Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance
* Any Income-Related element of Employment and Support Allowance
* Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit with an annual income of £17,005 or less
* Universal Credit where your "monthly earned income" is not more than £1,417
* Council Tax Reduction (not to be confused with Council Tax Discount)
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Families in receipt of the following will be eligible for Free School Meals & Milk:

* Income Support / Pension Credit
* Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance
* Any Income-Related element of Employment and Support Allowance
* Child Tax credit (but not Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of £17,005 or less
* Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an annual income of £7,920 or less
* Universal Credit where your "monthly earned income" is not more than £660
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

**How to apply?**

**You can apply on line**

Applications can be made by completing our online form. <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing> If you are having any issues with our online form please email EducationBenefits@westlothian.gov.uk Alternatively you can speak to staff in your child's school office for assistance.