

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.

Home Learning

- Materials ready available for pupils to support learning at home

Learning

- While we encourage pupils to be self-sufficient and prepared for lessons, we will provide any materials required to participate in any subject for example stationary equipment and calculators
- We have also taken the decision to remove all costs associated with Hospitality and Design and manufacture.

Uniform

- Our uniform policy helps our pupils feel more included and allows our students to be a recognisable part of their community.
- We will ensure that pupils are aware that they can wear 'unbranded' uniform
- We will also encourage our S6 pupils, to donate their ties and blazers in the hope that this will become a tradition.
- Our Pupil Support department have access to uniform to support families

School Clubs

- A wide range of activities and learning opportunities offered both at lunch and after school at no cost

Trips

We recognise that trips are an integral part of the school curriculum and can have a significant impact on pupils and therefore we want to guarantee that all pupils are able to access them. Our staff are committed to ensuring that all trips have educational value and we, as a school, will endeavour to make them available to all pupils.

- We have a variety of ways to help with the costs associated with trips, such as by spreading smaller payments over a longer period or by paying for part, or all, of it.
- If you have any concerns regarding any trip payment to contact pupil support.

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.
- Other events, such as school shows, will have prices kept to an absolute minimum, and, similarly to our trips policy, will still be available to pupils to whom cost might be an issue.
- While the cost of the S6 prom remains unavoidably high, we have introduced the Pop-up Prom shop , providing high-quality and fashionable clothing to borrow for any of our S6 pupils

Meals

- **Breakfast Club is available please speak to a member of pupil support for details**
- **Free School Meal – Pupils are encouraged to use their allowance at breakfast, break or lunch**

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

Families in receipt of the following will be eligible for **Free School Meals and a 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 £6,900 or less
- Universal Credit where "take-home pay" does not exceed £610.

Families in receipt of the following will be eligible for a **Clothing Grant only**

- Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit with an annual income of £16,105 or less
- Universal Credit where "take-home pay" does not exceed £1,342.

How to apply?

You can apply on line

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/43282/School-Clothing-Grant-Free-School-Meals-and-Milk-Application-Form->

If you are having any issues with our online form please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate department on 01506 281952 or email EducationBenefits@westlothian.gov.uk alternatively you can speak to staff in your child's school office.