



St. Nicholas' Primary School

Cost of the School Day Strategy

At St. Nicholas' Primary School, our aim is to support families to manage the hidden costs of the school day and to take care of God's earth considering the goals of Pope Francis' encyclical – Laudato Si': Care for our Common Home.

Our approaches are led by the 7 goals of Laudato Si:

- Response to the Cry of the Earth;
- Response to the Cry of the Poor;
- Ecological economics;
- Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles;
- Ecological Education;
- Ecological Spirituality; and
- Community Resilience and Empowerment.

As a community of Faith, our approach is further strengthened by our commitment to the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland by ensuring:

- *an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God; and*
- *a commitment to Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all.*

Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland

We have worked with our Parent Council to create this strategy to support families with these hidden costs. We recognize that it is challenging to eradicate such costs in their entirety. Therefore, our Parent Council are working with the school to reduce these barriers by ensuring that appropriate supports are in place for families that may require it.

Some of our families may require short-term support where as others may need longer term help. Our school will support any families who require it.

Following a consultation with our Parent Council, we have created a calendar of events throughout the school year which can create additional financial pressures (Please see Appendix 1). We hope this can help families to plan any hidden costs as we work as a community to reduce these.

Our Gospel Values

Respect

Kindness

Honesty

Compassion

Courage

Community



We would urge struggling families to reach out to the school, in the strictest of confidence, at the earliest point to discuss possible solutions.

Our commitment is to review our approaches annually through our self-evaluation processes and identify further areas where we can embed the goals of Laudato Si and continue our mission as a Catholic school.

A list of supports is provided below.

List of Supports Provided	Who to Contact
<u>Support with the School Day</u> • School uniform/ pre-loved uniform • Free school meal entitlement applications • School Clothing Grant applications • Free bus travel for children • Financial support for school trips, including residential trips • School equipment such as pencils and rulers	Mrs Macpherson rmacpherson@st-nicholas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk
<u>Advice/ Support for Adults</u> • Financial advice through signposting to Citizens Advice • Access to a Foodbank	
<u>PTA Support</u> • Attendance at School discos • Participation in School Fayres • Engagement in other PTA fundraising events • Subsidising the cost of school trips	

What next?

- Raise awareness of the Poverty Act and CPAG – Child Poverty Action Group through Parent Council, School Newsletter and website.
- Evaluate progress and awareness of position Statement August 2026

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Appendix 1

Calendar of Additional Costs within the School Year

August:

- New School Uniform
- New pens, pencils for school
- New lunchbox
- New school bag
- P6/P7 Lockerbie deposit and remaining amount

September:

- Glow and Dance Disco
- Leavers Hoody

October:

- Classfundraising – purchase of Christmas cards and gifts
- Wilson Photography – purchase of individual, family and class photographs.
- Halloween dress down

November:

- Christmas Show Tickets
- Christmas craft and coffee morning
- Christmas hampers

December:

- Christmas Jumper Day
- Just Giving at Christmas for Drumchapel Foodbank

February:

- Wee Box (Lent)

March:

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Our vision – to inspire a community of faith and learning built on our Gospel values to reach their God-given potential.



- Bonkers Bingo
- World Book Day
- Lenten Foodbank Appeal

April:

- Easter Hampers

May:

- Summer Disco

June

- P7 Leavers Day

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