



St Nicholas PS: Reducing The Cost of the School Day



Uniform

We have a 'St Nic's Nacs' preloved boutique is available in school and online, with close links to our local School Clothing Bank for onward referrals. Our local SVDP group support us with winter jackets in the Autumn, with targeted families being offered these and this then being opened school wide. Our Parent Council gifts all P1 learners with a school tie.

Trips

We give careful consideration to the planning of trips across the year and subsidise the cost where possible. We expect each class to go out of school on one excursion per year, with a maximum cost of £10 wherever possible. Where costs are higher, e.g. P7 Residential, we use iPay impact and spread the cost. We can also offer sponsorship for some costs in collaboration with community partners.

Resources

All classrooms have essential supplies such as stationary items and resources to support learning e.g. calculators, pens, pencils etc. Additional resources are available for children to select from our 'Take What You Need...' trolleys in each area. Devices are available within the classroom for pupils to use too.

Travel

We subsidise the cost of transport for excursions wherever possible. A small proportion of our learners travel to school by school bus. If learners live out with the catchment area, transport is free. Bus passes are available to purchase for those who live within the catchment.

Eating

We run a free breakfast club for all pupils. School lunch is free for P1-5 pupils with the Scottish Government planning to roll this out across the whole school. We promote how to apply for Free School Meals through our newsletters and the School App. Children who are FSM receive milk free of charge.

Clubs

We have a wide programme of after school clubs available across the school year. Pupils in receipt of free school meals may access these free where there is a charge. We subsidise the cost of these clubs to ensure equity of opportunities for all families and offer opportunities for free of charge clubs run by school staff where possible.

Homework

We have adopted an online approach to home learning. Children are not required to print materials. This can be requested through the class teacher. Children who do not have access to a device are accommodated. We adopt a flexible approach to homework to ensure we meet the needs of all families.

Events

We plan a calendar of events throughout the school year. We limit the number of sponsored events, and plan for these to ensure that parents have been informed in advance. We ask for donations rather than set amounts to ensure parents have the option to pay only what they can afford.

Family Support

We work closely with our parents and respond to their needs. This may mean signposting parents to advice, providing practical support and through organising charity funding. If you require any support please either phone or email the school office where our DHT, Mrs Brogan Conway, will be more than happy to help.

Useful websites and how to get support:



Uniform

Clothing grant: [Please click here](#) to see if you are eligible and how to apply.

Have you already received your clothing grant but your child needs new uniform?

- Check out St Nic's Naks, our free clothing shop at the front of the school. Help yourself to what you need!
- We can also make a referral to the West Lothian school bank. This charity provides school uniform and clothing to families in need.

Eating

Free School Meals: [Please click here](#) to see if you are eligible and how to apply.

Families in receipt of FSM are entitled to free milk and a school clothing grant too. Please note, all children in Primary 1- 5 will receive school lunches free of charge regardless of financial circumstances but it is only families receiving the above benefit who can also receive free school milk, the clothing grant and free access to after school clubs.

Family Support

If you need further advice or support please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Brogan Conway, Depute Head Teacher, via the school office.

Email: wlstnicholas-ps@westlothian.org.uk
Phone: 01506853509

Other useful links:

Help with school costs: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/helpwithcosts>

Information on other benefits: <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/benefits>

West Lothian Foodbank: <https://westlothian.foodbank.org.uk/>

Cost of living support: [Click here for more information on cost of living payments.](#)

The Advice Shop: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/adviceshop>

Feeling the Pinch Fund: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/feeling-the-pinch>

