



Help and Support

- In the first instance, please contact your child's Pupil Support teacher should you run into any school-related financial problems. All Pupil Support teachers can be contacted via the school office on 01357 524040.
- Complete our Request for Financial Support form available from the school office or via the school website (this will launch in August 2020).

The following information may also be of use:

Information about clothing grants and free school meals –

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186 or 0303 123 1011

DWP – Universal Credit helpline – 0800 328 5644

SLC – Money Matters Advice Service – 0303 123 1008

Benefits are Changing Team (for South Lanarkshire Council Tenants) – 0303 123 1012 or benefitsarechanging@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Shelter Scotland Housing Advice – 0808 800 4444 (out of hours 0800 242024)

Food Co-ops – www.locator.org.uk

Clyde, Avon and Nethan Food Bank – 07591 104 027

Hamilton District Food Bank – 07884 451 512

East Kilbride Community Food Bank – 01555 771 700

Best Start Food Payments – 0800 182 2222 or www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant

R:evolve Recycle Clothing Bank – 0141 641 5169 or www.revolve-recycle.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau – 01698 283477 (Hamilton), 01355 263698 (EK), 01555 664301 (Clydesdale)

If you do not have access to the internet or telephone please visit your local library, community centre or Citizens Advice Bureau and make use of their free facilities.

How you can help us:

- **Donate items of uniform, PE kit and study materials that you no longer need. Please drop them off at the school office.**
- **Keep us up-to-date with any relevant information.**
- **Consider helping out at PTA and other school events.**



Strathaven Academy

Cost of the School Day



School trips
 Home learning
 Eating at school
 Friendships at school
 Understanding poverty
 Travelling to school
 Learning at school
 Getting dressed
 School clubs
 Fun events

A quick guide to child poverty in Scotland and what we are doing to reduce this.



Cost of the School Day (CoSD)

Currently, almost one in four children in Scotland lives in poverty, with 65% of these cases occurring in a household with at least one working parent/carer.

New targets aim to reduce this to less than 10% by 2030.

Relative poverty is defined as:

"The condition in which people lack the minimum amount of income needed in order to maintain the average standard of living in the society in which they live."

(<https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-relative-poverty-definition-causes-examples.html>)

In real terms, a family is considered to be living in relative poverty if their household income is below 60% of the average UK household income (currently £28,400). This means that just under 14,000 children in South Lanarkshire (22%) are living in poverty and this is increasing. The estimated poverty rate for our local area is 18%. Although this is lower than the local authority and national average, poverty is still a very real issue for many families.

The following groups are more likely to be affected by poverty than others: single parents, households where someone has a disability, families with more than three children, minority ethnic families, families where the youngest child is under one and mothers aged under 25.

The Scottish Government introduced the Child Poverty Act in 2017. This legislation introduces statutory targets for reducing child poverty.

CoSD is an initiative, which aims to raise awareness within communities and schools of the financial implications and burdens education can create.

At Strathaven Academy, we realise insufficient household and/or disposable income mean that some young people simply cannot afford the resources needed for school and may not be able to take part in the wide range of school activities available. Consequently, some pupils are at risk of missing out, and therefore may feel different, excluded and unhappy. We also realise the pressure and distress this can cause parents/carers.

Overall, our aims are to:

1. **reduce the financial burden on our families**
2. **raise awareness amongst pupils, parents/carers, staff and other agencies of the supports available to families**
3. **operate with discretion, respect and dignity**
4. **ensure equitable access to education and extracurricular opportunities**

What is Strathaven Academy doing to tackle child poverty and increase equity?

- Carrying out an audit of current costs and looking at ways to reduce these.
- Seeking pupil, parent and staff feedback on what the main cost issues are for families and suggestions on how to tackle these.
- Creating a CoSD school policy that will outline in greater detail our pledge to reduce financial burdens and improve equity of access.
- Creating a uniform recycling bank to help all families access uniform and reduce waste.
- Removing punitive measures where the underlying issue is poverty.
- Equipping all classrooms with core learning materials specific to each subject so that pupils do not incur extra costs.
- Providing a pay-up system for school trips via Parent Pay and giving as much notice of trips and activities as possible.
- Spreading out school events and trips over the school year to reduce costs incurred in any one month.
- Creating a simple form whereby parents/carers can apply for financial support for materials, equipment, clothes, trips etc.
- Introducing poverty-related education into PSE lessons.
- Raising awareness amongst pupils, parents/carers and staff of poverty-related issues.
- Helping parents access grants and benefits which they may be entitled to whilst also raising awareness of these.
- Providing free sanitary products within school toilets and the wellbeing corner in the library.
- Providing learning resources such as books, leaflets etc in the school library and school office.
- Providing access to ICT for pupils and families.
- Promoting free school meals and notifying families when they are entitled to this. Pupils can also pre-order food, therefore they can still leave the school premises at lunchtime should they wish.
- Providing a school breakfast club: Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15-8.50am in F040.
- Limiting the number of non-uniform days per year.
- Offering a range of free school clubs at lunchtime and after school.
- Creating a CoSD section on the school website with relevant information. Paper copies will also be available from the school office.

