

WINCHBURGH ACADEMY

REDUCING THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

2026-27

Statement for Staff, Pupils and Parents/Carers



Introduction

Rationale

As a Secondary School in West Lothian Council, Winchburgh Academy is committed to equity, tackling poverty and reducing the cost of the school day. As a community, we aim to eliminate financial barriers to education and ensure that our staff recognise the clear link between family socio-economic circumstances, educational opportunity and related attendance, well-being, attainment and achievement. We are committed to reducing the cost of the school day for all learners. We aim to do this in several ways as set out below.

Uniform

Our Academy is aiming to provide a range of uniform items that are both cost effective and suitable for all our young people to wear, whilst at the same time supporting busy family lives. We believe a suitable and affordable dress code helps our pupils to feel more included and allow our pupils to be a recognisable part of their community. Our young people are continuously involved in the development of our 'agreed dress code' which includes.

- Black footwear
- White shirt / blouse – long or short sleeves
- Black school trousers / school skirt
- Plain black tights
- Plain unbranded navy v neck jumper
- Winchburgh School tie

All S1 young people are given a free school tie as part of their transition to Winchburgh Academy and anyone new starting the school throughout the year.

Families can also choose to purchase a range of alternative Winchburgh school uniform including tracksuit bottoms, hoodie, leggings, shorts and skirts. We encourage but do not insist on or require school badged sweatshirts / polo shirts or jumpers - unbranded items should match our school colours.



Pupil Support work closely with families who require some assistance to ensure that school uniform is not a barrier to attend or achieve at school. In addition, we use the information we have, to provide support for families to access the Clothing Grant Allowance and promote the West Lothian Clothing Bank.

Additionally, at Winchburgh Academy we hold a stock of new or used/pre-loved uniforms in a variety of sizes and styles. Families and learners can liaise with Pupil Support for any assistance. We encourage and appreciate donations of unused school uniform items throughout the year.

Educational Excursions/Trips

At Winchburgh Academy we recognise that excursions/trips are a positive part of the school curriculum/learning experience and therefore we work to ensure that all our young people can access them as appropriate.

Whole school approval (SLT) is granted for excursions/trips, which have a reasonable cost attached and supports all young people and families. Excursions/trips are planned well in advance, giving parents and carers a clear payment schedule if required, spread over time.

Consideration of Pupil Equity Funding, parent council fund donations and appropriate use of our school fund further helps to reduce the costs of excursions/trips.

We aim to ensure all transport for cultural events including sporting events/fixtures is free of charge for some young people. Further, we take pride in knowing our young people and families well and are always able to support them as and when required.

Fund raising activities are carefully planned throughout the year to help with reducing the cost of excursions/trips.

Learning at School (and out-with)

At Winchburgh Academy, all classrooms have appropriate and essential supplies for the subject area; pencils, calculators, pens, PE kit etc. for all young people to support their learning during classes. We have a large estate of IT devices available for young people to use in school including Netbooks and iPads. Where required, Pupil Support can make devices and internet connection available for use at home for those who require support.

Practical classes such as HFT and CDT have no cost for families. We pride ourselves in providing all resources to ensure that no young person is disadvantaged by lack of appropriate equipment. Outdoor, waterproof jackets, wellington boots, tents, sleeping bags and hiking boots are examples of what we make available for learners to engage fully in outdoor learning and engage in courses/experiences such as Duke of Edinburgh.

We use Microsoft Teams and One Note in Glow, this gives all learners free access to online resources, accessible from home/out-with school.

Teaching staff and support staff are mindful that not all young people can always access online learning and therefore paper copies are always readily available in school and to take home.

Provision of Food

All young people are expected to stay in school during lunch time to ensure healthy and cost-effective provision of food. Our school canteen offers a range of healthy and low-cost snacks and meals throughout the school day. The cashless catering system ensures learners who are in receipt of free school meals is managed discretely, therefore removing any stigma associated and promoting up take of free school meals.

Breakfast club provides free breakfast items every morning before the start of the school day. Breakfast club is supported by PEF and Stephens Bakery, and we work closely with local community partners to support our families.

Clubs and Health & Wellbeing

All school activities and clubs are free; these are offered at lunchtime and after school to all young people. By providing clubs, this encourages our young people to develop friendships across different age groups and schools.

Targeted young people and families are offered a free summer club. These opportunities are designed to develop, maintain and sustain positive working relationships with our families and help with the transition for the P7 learners joining us after the summer.

Most young people live very near to the school; we actively encourage them to walk/cycle to and from school. For those who live further afield, we support all young people applying for a Young Scot card, to access free bus travel. Helping to develop and support their independence and life skills.

As part of the Period Products (Free Provision) we provide free period products in all toilets and at the pupil support base 'take what you need trolley'. As a nurturing school, our values are 'respect, kindness and ambition' promote a very positive message, we work hard to ensure everyone feels happy, healthy and nurtured. We ensure that any young person experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this, and we teach our learners about poverty-related issues as part of the curriculum. Our Cost of the School Day student champions are involved in educating others through leadership programs to the wider community.

At Winchburgh Academy, we offer a wide range of clubs with external partnerships such as, bikeability, debate team, golf, ministry of food, Xcite Active Sports, all these clubs are free of charge and specialised equipment is provided, we are inclusive to all abilities. An example of this is our 'My Academy' curriculum in the BGE – all young people build life and employability skills in these courses, but it is also designed to provide opportunities for all young people to be part of clubs/experiences/activities and ensure wider achievement for all based on their personal skills, abilities and passions.

The Bridge, a specialist area run by Pupil Support, arranges small intervention groups to build life skills, confidence and self-esteem.



Smile counselling services support young people who may be going through challenges due to the indirect effect of poverty at home. The school works in partnership with CLD team to target young people to participate in youth clubs. All these activities are at no extra cost to our families.

Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)

Every school in Scotland receives Pupil Equity Funding from Scottish Government to support reducing/closing the poverty related attainment gap. Each school receives allocated funding based on their individual context. At Winchburgh Academy, we use the funding we receive to support targeted young people as appropriate on interventions including raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, attendance, educational excursions/trips and uniform.