

**Halfmerke Primary School**

**Cost of the School Day Position Statement**

At **Halfmerke Primary School,** we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We examine the School Day through the following headings; Uniform, Travel, Learning, Friendship, School trips, Eating, Fun, Clubs and Home learning.

**Uniform**

Our uniform is grey skirt or grey trousers red polo shirt and red sweat shirt / jumper / cardigan or a white shirt and tie. Families can purchase uniforms with the school logo from <https://www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk/> . We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts. Next session we intend to update our practice by reinstating our “previously loved” uniform sale.

For PE pupils need shorts and a tee shirt / polo shirt. Children require suitable footwear for PE. The school has a supply of gym shoes so no one misses out.

**Travel**

The majority of our children travel to school by foot. The Local Authority provides transport for some of our pupils. We are aware that this could mean many children are not able to attend after school clubs and we therefore ensure that we have some lunchtime activities as well as after school activities.

**Learning**

Children at Halfmerke Primarydo not need to pay for any core learning activity. Pencils, rulers and rubbers are provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment.

**Friendships**

We ensure that any pupil experiencing poverty-related bullying has a way of reporting this in confidence. We intend to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of part of financial education. We intend to gather the views of our young people and families on the Cost of the School Day and involve them in decision making around this.

**School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year by our teachers and are to enhance the learning in curricular areas. The average cost of trips for pupils is £5 - £7. We try to reduce the cost by subsidising educational outings from school funds or from Parent Council funding. Pupils at Halfmerke have one residential outing in Primary 7. We try to reduce the cost of this through enterprise activities. The cost of this outing can be paid over the year.

**Eating at school**

Last school year we had 26 % of pupils who were in receipt of Free School Meals. We are aware that there may be a stigma associated with a free lunch and we try to reduce this by operating a pre order system where all pupils ordering a lunch are given a band depicting a colour of their chosen meal. No difference is made at point of ordering or at point of delivery of the chosen meal. We estimate that approximately 72% of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals take up their entitlement. We offer a free breakfast club for all our pupils. We estimate that 25% of pupils eligible for FME take up this offer. In order to increase that percentage we intend to consult with our families.

**Fun Events**

Halfmerke Primary School recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. We look carefully at attendance and participation in these events in order to see if there are any poverty-related patterns that require action. We intend to extend to extend this to analysing participation at the school disco. As with school trips, our Fun Events are planned by our SMT often in consultation with the children. We ensure that fun events such as World book Day do not incur any cost to the pupils and we do not charge children to participate in Christmas parties etc. We currently limit our fund raising events to one or two a year. This session we held a concert and we raised funds through a Christmas enterprise.

**School Clubs**

At Halfmerke Primary,we have the following clubs netball, football, and athletics/ cross country, cooking, lego. We no longer charge our pupils to participate in our after school clubs. The school provides pupil representing our school at out of school sports events with tracksuits and strips. We intend to look at the impact of requiring football boots is having on the uptake of this club and investigate how we can support families in this.

**Home Learning**

We are reviewing our home learning to ensure that all pupils no matter their family circumstances can complete any homework activity. Homework is not linked to our Behaviour Policy and no pupil will receive a sanction for not completing a homework task.

We are very clear that the Cost of the School Day is an area that requires constant vigilance and will not be ‘fixed’ by any one action. In our Improvement Plan for 2019/20 we will be focusing on

* Introducing previously loved uniform sales
* Teach about poverty related issues through Financial education
* Consult with pupils and parents about increasing breakfast club uptake and increasing FME school lunch uptake.
* Plan for fun events at the start of the school year and ensure that all children can experience them.
* Seek ways to involve the local community in our fund raising
* Consult with our families to try to increase the uptake of school meals and breakfast club
* Review home learning policy to ensure that all pupils regardless of family circumstances can complete homework activities.

This statement will be replaced by June 2020 with a School Policy on Cost of the School Day.