

West Calder High School

Cost of The School Day Statement

August 2025



At West Calder High School, we aim to identify and address financial barriers to participation and learning for families and young people. By working in partnership, we will ensure that we maximise opportunities for our young people to succeed. Our 'West Calder Cares' Anti Poverty Strategy seeks to support our most vulnerable young people and their families by reducing the cost of the school day and removing barriers to participation.

Getting Dressed For School

- The WCHS school uniform is designed to provide a variety of low cost, inclusive, accessible options for every young person.
- The school operates a pre-loved uniform service. Families can access this service confidentially throughout the year.
- Staff support eligible families in the application process for School Clothing Grants
- A school online uniform shop has been created containing all uniform items however parents are also free to purchase any of the items from other retailers.
- School blazers are provided free of charge to all pupils who receive a clothing grant and also to other families identified as requiring financial support.
- Any shorts/jogging trousers and a plain t-shirt are acceptable for PE lessons
- PE kit is provided for pupils who require it.
- The 'Wellbeing Support' Team work with families to ensure that young people have all the school clothing they require.

Travelling to School

- The school supports families in applying for free school transport
- Transport to West Lothian College, other schools and all work/vocational placements is funded by the school as required.
- The school mini bus is used wherever possible to minimise transport costs for external activities/outings
- School supports all pupils to apply for free bus travel
- Where meetings with parents/carers are required and transport is a barrier, we will travel to a venue local to the family.

Learning at School

- Stationery packs are provided for pupils as required
- Pupils do not incur charges for subjects e.g. Health & Food Technology, CDT, Art & Design
- Study materials are provided for pupils as required

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Friendships at School

- The Wellbeing Team provide targeted support to vulnerable young people in order to ensure that they develop the skills and confidence required to build and maintain healthy, positive relationships with their peers.
- The Wellbeing Team provide ongoing support & monitoring to vulnerable pupils in order to ensure that they are engaged, included and involved in all aspects of school life

School Trips

- All curriculum related day trips are funded by the school
- All residential trips include a proportion of fully & partially funded places
- All other trips include a proportion of fully & partially funded places
- Specialist equipment is provided if required for residential trips
- Toiletries & other essentials are provided if required for residential trips
- Savings options are available for families wishing to pay for school trips in instalments

Eating at School

- A breakfast service is available for pupils as required
- Free fruit is available for all pupils every day
- Snacks are available for pupils as required
- Staff support eligible families in the application process for Free School Meals
- Free School Meals are promoted through all social media platforms, school newsletters and messages to parents
- Food is provided at no cost to pupils attending supported study sessions
- The school cashless catering system ensures no stigma surrounding Free School Meals

School Events

- The school calendar is planned to ensure that events incurring a cost are spread throughout the year thus enabling parents & carers to plan.
- Costs associated with attendance at, or participation in a range of school events is funded for eligible pupils
- The Wellbeing Team encourage targeted pupils to participate in all school events.
- The Wellbeing Team host free events in local communities in collaboration with partner agencies which offer practical support to families on reducing costs/accessing financial support
- We work with local partners to provide appropriate support to vulnerable pupils in order to support full participation/attendance at school events.
- School photographs are funded by the school for targeted pupils

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School Clubs

- All school clubs are free to attend and all resources and equipment is provided
- All school clubs are promoted through the school annual Fresher's Fair and through the pupil bulletin
- Wellbeing staff encourage participation of targeted pupils in school clubs and activities
- The school works in partnership with the CLD team to encourage targeted pupils to attend and participate in holiday clubs, youth clubs and transition clubs.

Home Learning

- Homework and study clubs are available for all pupils in school with free transport and food provided for Study Late sessions.
- All pupils have access to the school building before the start and following the end of the school day for personal study and have use of all school facilities including free wifi

School Holidays

- 'Kindness Packs' (home baking boxes; summer play sets; toiletry/hygiene packs; sanitary product packs issued to all targeted pupils in order to support young people & their families during the school holiday period
- The school works in partnership with local support organisations to provide financial support to the most vulnerable families
- The Wellbeing Team access financial support through a range of grant funding streams for targeted pupils to provide items including laptops; outdoor play items; bicycles
- A programme of activity is offered to targeted pupils

Attitudes Towards Poverty

- The school charity, 'West Calder Cares' provides support to families in need. In addition, staff can apply for financial support from the charity in order to increase the participation, attendance and engagement of those young people facing financial challenges.
- 'West Calder Cares' Ambassadors raise awareness amongst staff, pupils and the wider community of the impact of poverty and work to reduce the stigma associated with poverty within the school and cluster community.
- The school works with local partners to provide advice and support to families including benefits advice; employability training and support; adult learning and mental health support
- The Wellbeing Team build strong, positive relationships with our most vulnerable families to encourage engagement with school and to accept support, advice and guidance in removing barriers which may affect their children's opportunities to succeed in school
- The Wellbeing Team works with 'West Calder Cares' Ambassadors to support families in need