



## Our School Promise - Poverty Proofing the School Day

### **Rationale and Context**

Castleview Primary School is committed to ensuring equity, inclusion and full participation for all pupils. We recognise that many children and families experience financial hardship and that poverty-related costs can create barriers to learning, participation and wellbeing. Castleview promises to prioritise the need to reduce the cost of the school day, reduce stigma and minimise financial barriers whenever possible.

The Scottish Government estimates that 1 in 4 children in Scotland live in poverty. At Castleview 100% of pupils live in SIMD 1 and 2. We therefore understand that the national '1 in 4' statistic is more likely higher in our school.

All pupils at Castleview Primary School should be able to access and benefit from the full life of the school without cost being a barrier. We will actively review school practices to identify and remove hidden costs associated with the school day.

### **Key Principles**

1. Equity and Inclusion – Every pupil must be treated with dignity and respect; we will avoid practices that can unintentionally highlight or stigmatise children or families because of their financial circumstances.
2. Reducing Financial Barriers – We will endeavour to ensure that school activities and expectations do not impose unnecessary costs on families, **whilst still maintaining high learning and teaching opportunities and expectations.**
3. Partnership with Families – We will work with parents/carers to understand costs involved in school life and seek solutions that support participation.

## **How do we do this?**

### 1. Free Participation in P7 Camp

Castleview Primary School provides the P7 residential camp completely free of charge to parents and carers. All costs associated with transport, accommodation and activities will be covered by applying for grants, pupil fundraising and the school fund. No pupil will be excluded or feel different due to inability to pay.

### 2. Free Breakfast Provision

A free bagel bar, provided by Magic Breakfast is available to all pupils each school day. This ensures every child starts the day ready to learn, supports wellbeing and helps reduce pressure on family budgets.

### 3. Free Healthy Snack

Fruit bowls containing fruit snacks are available in all classrooms, ensuring all pupils have access to nutritious snacks without cost. Milk is available for all pupils too,

### 4. Cost-Aware Practice

We have embedded a cost-aware practice across the school. This includes the consideration of economic barriers when planning school trips, clubs and uniform expectations.

### 5. Financial Education

Our pupils learn about the importance of budgeting and cost and organise, implement and evaluate their own fundraising events to contribute to events and school resources.

### 6. Non Branded School Uniform

No pupil is expected to wear expensive branded uniform. We encourage pupils to wear school colours however pupils are welcome regardless of how they are dressed.

## **Implementation and Review**

This policy is shared with all staff, pupils and parent/carer groups. It is available on the school website. Its effectiveness will be reviewed annually in consultation with stakeholders to ensure it continues to reduce financial barriers and promote inclusion.