

Carmondean PS & ELC

Poverty Proofing Statement
2023-2024



At Carmondean Primary School, all of our staff are very aware of the rising cost of living and the extent of poverty within Scotland and more specifically, the area surrounding our school. 1 in 4 children within Scotland are living in poverty and although the reasons surrounding this are society based and not just related to school, we feel strongly that it is our role to do all we can to ensure our school is an inclusive environment where all our children have an equal chance to thrive.



School Dress Code

Universal

Our uniform consists of a navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan with black/grey/navy trousers or skirt and a white polo shirt. Traditionally these consisted of embroidered items with our school badge although for several years now we have informed parents/carers that plain items bought from the high street or supermarkets are perfectly acceptable.

On PE days children are encouraged to wear their PE kit to school. This is a plain white t-shirt with black/grey/navy joggers, shorts or leggings. Again these do not require the school logo.

Targeted

Parents/carers can find information on how to source application forms for school clothing grants from our School Hand-Book, our School App and from regular newsletters. Help with completing the forms is offered by our office staff to anyone requiring assistance.

Expenditure from our Participatory Budgeting allowance from the Pupil Equity Fund ensures that each class has a supply of shorts and t-shirts for anyone who needs them. In addition, children attending our Enhanced Transition sessions may borrow a complete kit for outdoor and indoor P.E. (including trainers, joggers, hooded top and backpack) for as long as they require it. This session this budget will extend to buying a navy sweatshirt and embroidered book bag for all children starting school in Primary 1.

Our Pupil Council and Eco Warriors run a 'Pre-Loved School Uniform' facility where parents/carers are encouraged to donate school clothing they no longer require (but is still in good condition), for the benefit of families who can use them. The clothing is available for perusal by anyone who may need it and there is also an online order form available. This rail is taken out to the school gate regularly and this has proven a successful strategy to encourage families to take what they need throughout the year.

Our 'Pre-Loved' items have now extended to a wider range of clothing that children may require over the course of the year. This includes Halloween costumes, Christmas jumpers, winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves and shoes.

Waterproofs and wellies are encouraged for our weekly outdoor learning sessions. At Carmondean we now have a wide range of waterproof suits and wellies that any children can access to ensure they are well dressed for our sessions.

Travelling to School



Universal

Our school serves the catchment area of Carmondean and Deer Park, all of which is well served by walkways and underpasses to avoid negotiating main roads. As such, the school is within safe walking distance for all living within the catchment area. Children are encouraged to use cycles and scooters as an alternative to walking, and a lock-up area is situated to the side of the school building.



Friendships at School

Universal

The school dress code is promoted at Carmondean to discourage any peer-pressure issues arising from children wearing branded and/or fashion clothing and footwear.

Our school is an AAL school and actively encourages learners to bring and use their own devices in school. However, each class is adequately equipped with digital technology to make it available to every child when needed.

Our values of Respect, Achieve, Include and Nurture are at the heart of all we promote at Carmondean.

Targeted

Carmondean provides extensive nurture experiences for children who will benefit from them within our Cosy Corner and The Den.

Our Playground Mentors are trained in supporting children with friendships in the playground and will initiate and support games during playtime and lunchtime.

Learning at School



Universal

Each classroom is supplied with enough stationery items for all children, as well as everything else they are likely to need for learning at Carmondean (including dictionaries, thesauruses, calculators and digital technology). If needed, children may borrow these items for home-study or to complete homework.

Targeted

Children's progress is discussed regularly at Equity & Excellence Meetings and strategies and interventions are put in place as appropriate. Children who will benefit from more prolonged interventions have their progress monitored closely and their targets are reviewed regularly. Individual Education Plans, learning reviews and Child Planning Meetings are held and monitored regularly to support our most vulnerable pupils.



School Trips

Universal

School trips are planned well in advance and many are within walking distance of the school. Those with costs involved are notified to parents/carers as soon as possible thereafter, giving the option to save for them. Some trips are subsidised by our Parent Staff Association and this subsidy applies to every child going on that trip. Pupils in P7 have the opportunity to attend a residential experience. Parents/carers are notified at least 1 year in advance and this can be paid up through a payment card or iPay Impact.

As the cost of living rises all year groups will only go on one paid trip a year during our 2023-2024 session.

Targeted

The Senior Leadership Team supports families and can signpost them to sources of financial aid, including that offered by our Church partners, Financial Link Worker and local authority help organisations.

Within Carmondean we operate a food bank called 'Carmondean Pantry'. Our Pupil Council take the lead on this initiative and our families can order online, via paper order form or can come into school and pick their own items. Our Pupil Council pick and pack all orders and this was hugely successful during our 2022-2023 session with over 30 families using this resource.

Fun Events



Universal

Many fun events are either paid for in full or subsidised by our Parent Staff Association (PSA) or financed from School Fund. Dress Down Days, run by our PSA, are optional. Support for charities is either low- or no-cost (e.g., ShoeShare) or optional (e.g., Children in Need).

Targeted

Events that have a cost can be subsidised for children in receipt of free school meals by Pupil Equity Funding or School Fund.

Eating at School

Universal

Carmondean Primary School operates a free Breakfast Club Provision which is open to all learners. Children who do not have a morning snack can access a snack free of charge from the office. All children in ELC – P5 are entitled to free school meals. There is also information and links to the appropriate application forms for Free School Meals on our School App, School Handbook and in regular newsletters. Assistance in completing applications can be given by Office staff.

Targeted

Children who have been identified as arriving at school with no breakfast, but are too late for Breakfast Club, are catered for in our Cosy Corner, where cereals and snack bars are available at all times.

Attitudes Towards Poverty

Universal

The staff at Carmondean have knowledge and understanding of all our children and their families, including awareness of those likely to be living in poverty. Our Participatory Budgeting model involves our Pupil Voice Groups in discussing relevant issues related to poverty and its impact on the cost of the school day, thus awareness of the issue is constantly raised.

Targeted

The Senior Leadership Team operates an Open Door policy and can direct families in need to support from, e.g., our Church partners. Our Nurture Teacher can signpost families to support services.

School Clubs

Universal

All school-run clubs are run in school either at lunch-times or directly after school. All of our teacher led after school clubs are free of charge. Fees for clubs run by, e.g., Active Schools, etc., are kept as low as possible.

Targeted

Some of our clubs are designed to target specific groups of children (e.g., Nurture, Homework, etc.) and these children are encouraged to attend. Where it is felt by school staff that a child would benefit from attending a specific club, arrangements are made for them to attend free of charge and any fees are covered by school fund.

Home Learning

Universal

We provide home learning activities online through Teams and Seesaw. We do not ask for any work to be printed at home.

All children have access to digital technology in school.

Consideration is given to home learning projects to ensure that there are no specialist resources required which may incur an additional cost to families.

Targeted

Our Nurture and Homework clubs are available to support children with help and advice about home learning. Time can be given to complete home learning tasks within school hours if required or requested. Paper copies of learning activities are available for those children who do not have access to technology. We have a store of iPads and Laptops that can be lent to families if requested.

Whole School Team Support

At Carmondean, our learners and their families are supported by the whole school team to help alleviate the effects of poverty on their experiences of school and to make the cost of the school day more affordable. At Carmondean, the whole school team is committed to reducing the cost of the school day and narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap.



