



Thomas Muir Primary School



## Supporting Children and Families with the Cost of the School Day

**“One in four children in Scotland grow up in poverty”**

### **Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)**

4.1 million children live in poverty in the UK  
47% of children living in lone-parent families are in poverty  
70% of children growing up in poverty live in working families  
5.2 million children expected to be in poverty by 2022  
Nine children in a class of 30 live in poverty

At Thomas Muir Primary, we are committed to promoting equity and to reducing and removing barriers to participation in school. When children and young people can't take part in opportunities because of financial barriers, this impacts on their ability to learn, achieve and be happy at school. We are aware of the impact of changes such as the introduction of Universal credit for low income families and the additional pressures on working families. We are mindful of the cost of the school day for everyone and of the additional cost pressures that come from activities linked to the ethos and wider life of the school, including trips, school clubs and social events.

At Thomas Muir Primary we provide the following supports for families who need it:

School uniform

We have very strong links with Women's Aid and provide support packages for families in refuge. These include clothing, toiletries and resources to support learning in refuge.

Basic items required for school (Stationery, Literacy & Numeracy packs)

Lunches

School trips, including residential trips

Clothing – we have recently set up an account with Decathlon to purchase clothing and kit for residential trip

Transport – zone cards to support children to get to school

Community clubs

Panto performance in school (reduce/remove cost)

Music tuition

Learning resource packs for children who require targeted support in their learning – Count on Us Boards, Active Literacy Magnetic Boards

Looked After and Care Experienced Children – A range of supports, including i-pads

Individual support packages (confidential)

Signposting families to agencies – CAB, Babes in the Woof, EDC Foodbank

Being mindful of fundraising events in terms of the number of these we have in the school session and the cost of participating

### **What next?**

Consult with FM staff re: how insufficient funds are managed in lunch accounts

Raise awareness of the Poverty Act and CPAG – Child Poverty Action Group through parent council and school website

We are going to form a COSD support group at TMPS, using COSD toolkit

We have reached out to CAB – We would like them to hold benefits health check clinics in the school and training for the leadership team

Consider resource lending programmes

Take forward PC idea for home learning for families, integrating digital technologies

Consider cost of experiences such as school photographs – can we do this differently?

Update – Representative from the CAB delivered training to the leadership team in February 2020. Arrangements were made for clinics and drop in sessions in April 2020, but these were cancelled due to school closure.