



Equity at Colinton Primary School



Position Statement 2025



What does Equity look like at Colinton Primary?

We are working with our school community on approaches to reducing the cost of the school day. Some initiatives have already started; others will be developed in consultation with our staff, parents, and children.

We are fortunate to have support from our Parent Council, who contribute to the life of the school and help to raise money for the benefit of all.

THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We recognise the need to reduce the cost of the school day for all our pupils: we are all affected by the current cost of living crisis and particularly those who are already living on low incomes. Our school is committed to reducing or removing costs to promote equity, making sure that all our children have the same opportunities to learn, participate and achieve.



We know that talking about money and costs can be hard, there might be lots of reasons that you would rather not talk about money. But this can mean that families miss out on financial help or feel unable to talk to anyone if they are struggling with school costs.



We invite everyone who is experiencing difficulties related to school costs or who are experiencing money worries to get in touch for help and advice, which will always be given in confidence. You can speak to the Head Teacher or the school office about any concerns.



School Trips

We aim to minimise the cost of school trips by applying for travel grants, subsidies, and free events wherever possible.

We are also committed to ensuring every child in our school has their National Entitlement Card, which can be used to travel for free on public transport. Please get in touch with the school office if you would like help with this application.

No child will ever miss out on an educational experience, outing or trip due to financial circumstances. Individual funding requests can be treated in confidence by the school.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any school payments. Beyond the Head Teacher and School Administrator, no one else will know.



School Uniform

We ask that all children wear the school colours: royal blue tops and grey bottoms. We do not require these to be branded items.

We will run regular 'pre-loved' uniform sales and swap-shops.

Our P7 Hoodies are ordered in the Spring Term of P6 and we check every child has access to one if they wish.

Families who are finding it hard to fund school uniform are also encouraged to visit the school office and our 'Uniform Boutique' anytime, where we can provide what you need.

Families registered for Free School Meals are provided with a clothing grant of £120 per child.

We can support families with a referral to the Edinburgh School Uniform Bank <https://edinburghuniform.org/>

Please get in touch if you would like help with this.



Dress up/down days

To reduce the pressure on families, we are limiting the number of dress up/down days at Colinton Primary. These are decided on in consultation with the children and donations are always voluntary.

Our school staff and Pupil Groups set up Halloween Costume and Christmas, or Winter Clothing 'swap shops' and look for donations from our school community.



Charitable Fundraising

Our children and families like to support national fundraising days (eg. Children in Need, Sports Relief). We recognise that these can put added pressure on families. All children will be invited to participate. We will not usually collect money in school but provide families with a ParentPay web link where they can choose to donate if they wish.

Our pupils do collect money in school for the Poppy Appeal in school in November. We recognise the significance of this appeal to our school community. Any child who wishes to wear a poppy will be able to take one, with or without a donation.



Parent Council Fundraising

This is, of course, a vital part of our support to families and we are very grateful for all our Parent Council do to support the school.

We have a few main events through the year. These events can include: The Summer BBQ / Fair, Children's Halloween Disco and Winter Film Night. These events and their activities are often donation only and we encourage anyone to attend.

We are always keen to encourage more support from local businesses and organisations in our local area. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or would like to help with these events.



P7 Residential Camp

We will always discuss payment plans in confidence with you.

We can also help to provide any child with clothing and equipment essentials for camp. We are continually looking at ways to fund and arrange this special experience so that it meets the needs of all our pupils.



P7 end of year celebrations and other school celebrations

No child will ever miss out on these events due to financial circumstances. Fundraising and Parent Council support can help us to keep these costs to a minimum and ensure that everyone enjoys these fun events. We thank our Parent Council for helping to fund our school Christmas Events every year.



School Stationery & Core Curriculum Costs

We provide all our children's stationery and core curricular needs in school, to ensure all our children feel included. There is no need to bring pencil cases into school. They can be kept at home for homework tasks. We always have supplies of stationery items for homework tasks which are available on request.



PE and Outdoor Learning Kit

We also keep a supply of spare PE kits, gym shoes and spare waterproofs, wellies etc for families which are available on request. Donations are always welcome for any spare or old items you may have.



Active School Sports Clubs / Activities

Active Schools activities are free for all, and we are working with our Active Schools Coordinator to provide and advertise as many local clubs as possible for our pupils. Look out for email information about these activities.



Gifts

At Colinton Primary all our staff absolutely love their jobs.

We kindly say that you do not need to provide gifts to teachers, pupil support assistants or other staff.

Although they are lovely sentiments and very appreciated by staff, we know that gifts can be expensive and do not want to put additional financial strain on our families. It is important to note that this is policy across all schools in the City of Edinburgh.

A simple 'thank you' is sufficient and always welcome.



Snacks in School

Any child who does not have a morning snack will be offered a piece of fruit or small healthy snack from our limited supply. Milk is free to those who are registered with Free School Meals.



Breakfast and After School Clubs

We run a Breakfast Club in our school building from 7.45am every morning which is open to all. Food is served until 8.30am. This is kindly subsidised by a company called *Aegon* and we only ask for a small daily amount per child.

Please get in touch for more details

Colinton Pupils can attend the Oxgangs After School Club, which operates from the end of the school day until 5.30pm Mon-Thurs and 5pm Friday. The Club Coordinator can advise parents who are entitled to funding support.

Registration forms are available from our School Office.



Are you entitled?

Applying for Free School Meals

Our school staff are more than happy to help you complete the 'Free School Meals' application. It is important for all families to apply, even those in P1-P5, so that their children receive school milk and a clothing grant. Applying for Free School Meals also helps our school funding from Scottish Government.



Opportunities Fund

The 'Colinton Opportunities Fund' is set up to raise additional money for pupils in our school. This is a quick and easy way for families to contribute to support others. It will help with subsidising trips, providing equipment, uniform, resources, and opportunities for those needing a helping hand.

If you would like to help, and are financially able, you can donate any amount, at any time, from your ParentPay account. Go to 'active payment items', click on 'Opportunities Fund' and type the amount you wish to donate.

If you would like to find out more about the Opportunities Fund, Equity and the Cost of the School Day, or would like to get involved making decisions about how to raise funds, please get in touch.