



All of our staff team are aware of the effects of poverty and the impact this has on our school, community, families and children. Our work is driven by our values: Achievement, Adaptability, Relationships and Support. We have measures in place which help our families with school costs and to make sure that our pupils can participate and learn. Our Pupils and Parent Teacher Action Group ('PTAG') actively engage in Participatory Budgeting to reduce the cost of the school term meaning certain funds are allocated to ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Our pupils are included in meaningful conversations about how to reduce the cost of the school day.

## Getting Ready for School



**Universal:** Our school uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan, black or grey trousers, skirt or plain jogging bottoms, plain white polo shirt or an embroidered white polo shirt with or without the school logo on it. Plain and non-branded PE Kits are encouraged. Our Parent Teacher Action Group ('PTAG') organise pre-loved uniform sustainability station with an optional donation but no obligation to pay for items required.

**Targeted:** Clothing Grant forms are regularly signposted through school newsletters and application forms are available from the school or online. Parents can also be supported with completing a referral to the School Clothing Bank and all communication is treated confidentially. We also provide items from preloved/new stock to individuals or families who need these without referral/qualifying processes required.

## Travelling to/from School



**Universal:** Our school serves the catchment of Bellsquarry village and Murieston Valley with almost all children living within walking distance to school. After school clubs are run in school so there is no need to travel any distance. 'Simply Play' offers after school child care and full details can be obtained from their website: <https://www.simplyplay.org/>

**Targeted:** Staff members are available to support families requiring assistance to complete transport applications if they qualify for this.

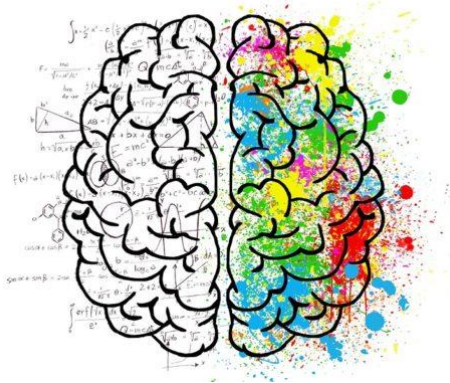
## Friendships at School



**Universal:** School uniform is promoted to negate any peer pressure for branded clothing. Although we aim to encourage 'bring your own devices' for technology, all pupils continue to have access to digital technologies in school and the provision of this is supported not only through school fund and fundraising activities but by the PTAG who have fundraised and provided devices to each class. Equity is discussed regularly in school and we continue to work with our school community to develop their awareness and of the difference between 'Equity and Equality.' We also have a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Champion and Family Champion who disseminate information to staff and families on a regular basis about new initiatives being rolled out at National and Council level.

**Targeted:** We use Whole School Nurture approaches but also have individual support and Social Skills interventions for individual and group development as well as daily check-ins. We work closely with a range of agencies including ASN team, Health, Inclusion Support Service and Social Policy to meet the needs of all.

## Learning at School



**Universal:** Stationery is provided for all classes to access at all times. Learning resources are accessible within all classrooms and all pupils are encouraged to use a variety of manipulatives to support their learning. All pupils have individual stationery resource packs provided. There are options for resources to be borrowed to support learning such as devices, dictionaries, calculators and so on.

**Targeted:** Regular planning meetings, Excellence and Equity meetings, Individual Education Plans and targeted support plans are held and monitored regularly to support our most vulnerable pupils. Termly attainment meetings are also held to discuss those pupils who require additional support or

**Universal:** We give consideration to all trips to ensure costs are kept as low as possible. Class trips are limited to a maximum of two annually to reduce the cost. Where possible, we try to source locations that provide limited transport to reduce the cost of the trip. All pupils have the opportunity to attend residential experiences throughout Primary School – these trips can be paid up over time. Many school day trips are often free or very low cost – particularly those within

## Excursions



## Eating at School



**Universal:** We promote Free School Meals (FSM) and signpost information for all parents regularly throughout the session. Cashless catering via iPayimpact means that those in receipt of free school meals follow the same ordering process as those who make payments reducing any stigma. Fruit is available daily from the Sustainability Station for any child who requires a snack. Snacks for any specific events held within the school such as Halloween Discos, Christmas parties and so on are funded by school and/or PTAG and no donation is required for these.

**Targeted:** We can provide snacks and/or breakfast for any child who requires one beyond our Breakfast Club hours. Parents are made aware of the application for free school meals and milk process online. Staff are on hand to assist with the completion of this online application where required.

## Home Learning



**Universal:** Home learning tends not to rely solely on ICT wherever possible. If this is needed, devices can be borrowed from school or time can be allocated to complete tasks in school. We provide a paper copy of homework.

**Targeted:** Our staff team are readily available to support pupils who require support/advice with their homework and/or who require resources. Our staff members communicate with pupils through Microsoft Teams to offer advice/support. Families without access to a device to engage in on-line learning have the opportunity to borrow a school device. We offer a homework club to help to overcome these barriers by offering learners the resources and support needed to undertake homework or revision.

## School Clubs



**Universal:** All school organised after school clubs run directly by staff are currently free of charge. When clubs have a charge attached, for example, through Active Schools, Young Engineers Club, pupils in receipt of FSM would not be required to pay.

**Targeted:** Our staff team direct and encourage families to attend after school clubs and activities. Pupil Equity Funds can be used to fund coaches/leaders in order to provide high quality activities taking pupil choice into consideration.

## Fun events



### Universal

Fun events in school such including celebrations, focus weeks etc. are paid for using school funds. We always ask for a small donation rather than a specific contribution for dress down days. The PTAG generously support events such as Christmas to ensure all children have a special experience. Our pupils have set up a uniform and Christmas jumper swap shop and other events to allow parents to upcycle items instead of buying new.

### Targeted

Play items and casual clothing can be obtained through the Preloved Uniform and School Clothing Bank for identified families. Our PTAG is in the process of considering the pre selling of tickets rather than cash handling for fundraising events to allow free tickets to be given to families who may miss these events otherwise.

## Bellsquarry Staff Team



### Universal and targeted

Our Pupil Support Workers, Teaching Staff, Office Staff and Senior Leadership Team work alongside our staff, families and pupils to best support the needs of all of our families, to help reduce the cost of the school day and to narrow the poverty related attainment gap.

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