



Falla Hill: Supporting children by mitigating the cost of the school day

The following are in place to help our families with school costs, improve participation and increase children's potential for learning

COVID-19 Recovery Phase and Access to Technology re Home Learning: We have provided digital tools for a number of our families to enable children to engage in home learning, during school closures and the blended model of learning, in response to COVID-19. Families have been supported through phone calls, emails and online demonstrations in the use of software and hardware.

Uniform: We carefully consider our uniform supplier regularly to ensure that we are providing low cost/durable uniform at a good price for our families. Uniform can be ordered online and we also hold a small stock in school for families who cannot access the Internet. We have an extensive selection of 'nearly new' uniform items which are made available to families through our Eco-Schools Swap Shop. For families, who need more support, we work sensitively to ensure access to uniform is there; including signposting school grants.

Travel: We have no children who require bus transportation to get to school each day. If access to school is an issue, then we support families on an individual basis to ensure that their child can attend and is on time.

Resources: We stock each classroom with a full range of stationary items at the start of the school year to ensure that no child is disadvantaged. We also provide free access to our school supply of stationary resources so that staff can access these when they need them, in order to meet the needs of the children in their class.

Trips: We give consideration to all trips to ensure that costs are kept down, with only two chargeable trips per class per year, these trips are subsidised through fundraising. We plan residential trips in advance and have saving options to spread the cost. We monitor the number of trips, costs and year groups/families and respond accordingly. For families, who need more support, we work sensitively to ensure access to residential trips is not denied purely on cost.

Eating: We provide a free breakfast club each morning, which is attended by up to 50 children on any one day. All children in P1-3 receive free school lunches each day. Our 'cashless' lunch system ensures that there is no stigma for any child in P4-7 who receives free school meals. We also provide a small selection of healthy 'tuck' items which we sell for a very small charge each day at break. We sell these items at a much cheaper price than they could be purchased in shops.

Clubs: We continue to extend our range of before and after school clubs and lunchtime clubs as part of our wider curriculum. This term, we have ensured that we have a balance of clubs that are 'free' with those that incur a small charge. We have used part of our PEF money to facilitate a wider range of after-school clubs – this was requested by our children as how we would use our participatory budget. We monitor our quintile 1 children's participation in these clubs to ensure that they are accessing them.

Homework: We provide a range of homework experiences and ensure that we have a flexible approach that meets the needs of all families.

Events: (e.g. proms/discos, dress down days etc) : We try, where possible, to make most of our events 'free of charge', including all family learning events and 'end of year' sports/fun events. We ask for donations rather than any set 'cost'.