



Cost of the School Day at Bathgate Academy 2024-2025

At Bathgate Academy we recognise the need to reduce the cost of the school day for all our young people and particularly for our young people who are already experiencing poverty. All of our staff are aware of the effects of poverty and how it pertains to the context of our school and our young people. With regards to the items below we have measures and strategies in place which help our young people and their families with school costs to ensure that all of our young people can participate, learn and achieve their potential.

Uniform

We have an inclusive low cost uniform to meet the needs of learners and keep costs to a minimum for families. We support access through school bank and our own provision within the 'Bathgate Quarter' where uniform, sports wear and formal wear are collected and repurposed. We utilise our welfare fund as appropriate.

Travel

Our catchment includes pupils who walk and pupils who are entitled to free school transport. We encourage and support students to apply for the Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme Scotland.

Learning and Resources

There are no costs applied to curriculum learning. Study Support is available to all senior phase pupils across every Faculty at no cost. Sessions are offered at lunchtime as well as after school to widen access. Easter Study Support is also offered at no cost to pupils. Calculators are provided from the Maths department. Outdoor learning opportunities for groups of learners is provided at no extra costs.

Trips

Approval is only given to trips which have reasonable costs attached. Trips are planned and with a clear schedule of payments spread over time. Financial support is given to families on an individual basis.

Free School Meals and In-School Catering

Our cafeteria offers a range of healthy and low-cost meals and snacks. The cashless catering system ensures pupils in receipt of Free Meal Entitlement are not identified to peers. We raise awareness of Free Meal Entitlement and have systems to support full utilisation of this entitlement. There is a breakfast club running in the school canteen. All nurture students are also able to access food in our nurture room during their sessions.

Clubs

All extra-curricular clubs at lunchtimes and after school are free for all pupils.

Homework

We use an online resource to provided engaging and accessible homework tasks. To support this we provide access to IT during breaks and lunches. We can provide a paper-based homework task if necessary and pupils do not have to submit homework online.

Events

Dress down days are restricted to the last day of each term. We ask for 'donations' and gifts of food, charitable collections as opposed to a set cost to reduce the burden on families. Pupils also plan and organise fund raising activities through the Charities Committee.

Self Care Kits

We have free access to self care packs including period products. Pupils can access at any time.

Actions for session 24-25

- Include regular information on COSD and access to resources in our community updates – Pupils, Staff, Parents, Partners
- Share more information and fully launch our 'Bathgate Quarter' and include pupils in organising events
- Analyse uptake of spend of FSM and support pupils to access full entitlement
- Continue to upskill school community on hidden poverty factors to support the removal of barriers for our learners and their families.

