



A Fair Approach & Reducing the Cost of the School Day

We are committed to ensuring that every child at Neville's Cross Primary School & Nursery has equal access to all opportunities available to them, regardless of financial position, and we have worked hard to identify and overcome the barriers to learning that some children may face.

We have considered the following key areas of school life and the actions we can take to ensure equality of opportunity:

- School Uniform & Clothing
- Food & Snacks
- Classroom Activities
- Out of School Activities
- Charity, Fundraising and Community
- School Trips and Activities

	Action taken	Notes
School Uniform & Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We positively promote the wearing of our school uniform to create a school identity. In addition this helps prevent 'competition' among children for the latest designer clothing/footwear. • The only school branded item we will ask children to wear is the school sweatshirt / cardigan which can be purchased with our logo from School Trends, Brigade or Etika direct. Although other branded uniform items are also available, we have a flexible approach so parents can look at a range of suppliers. • We have 'Pre-Loved' items available and all parents are welcome to take any items of clothing. • Any items in lost property for longer than 3 months are added to the Pre-Loved stock. • If a child regularly comes to school without uniform we can provide uniform items and PE kit. 	This should be advertised regularly via our newsletter/Facebook page
Food & Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support parents in completing Durham County Council Free School Meals application forms as children join our school and at any other time should circumstances change 	An electronic link to Free School Meal application forms will be

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit / toast /snacks are available for any child who complains of feeling hungry or may not have a snack or tuck shop money • If a child's parents have not provided a packed lunch, we will always provide a school lunch • Where a non-FSM eligible child regularly does not have lunch booked and paid for, we contact the family to discuss and cover the costs of lunch for an agreed period. • We provide a cup of water for those children who may not be able to bring a water bottle from home. • We will promote school packed lunches when we have a day trip which crosses lunchtime – this will ensure FSM children are the same as Non-FSM children. 	<p>included in newsletters/via our Facebook page</p>
<p>Classroom Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We provide all classroom essential items which children can use at any time. • Children will not be asked to write and focus on what they have done in the holidays, at weekends or out of school as this can be problematic for some children and identifies any differences in family financial circumstances; some may not have had as many experiences or opportunities as their peers. 	<p>Share this with all staff – this will filter into discussions too as children should not be put 'on the spot'</p>
<p>Out of School Activities & Homework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff understand that not all children have access to a computer, tablet or the internet when setting home learning tasks. Children can be offered alternatives e.g. some paper resources/ideas, access to homework clubs in school or support with technology. • Staff understand that not all children have access to resources such as arts and crafts when setting home learning tasks and will ensure that all children are given, or offered, the resources they need to complete a task. • We are aware that it can be difficult for parents to meet the cost of after school clubs. If this is the case, please speak in confidence to us 	<p>Ensure this is shared among staff. Promote our loan stock once ready.</p>
<p>Charity, Fundraising & Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We keep non-uniform days / dress down days to a minimum and consider carefully the theme to ensure no additional cost to parents. These days are always donation only and no one is excluded from taking part if they do not have a donation. • Children are not permitted to bring electronic devices into school as they may lead to competition/unkind behaviours. • Christmas Party Day does not require additional food and children are not asked to bring food in from home. The costs of any snacks/treats are covered by school. 	<p>Consider the pros and cons of children bringing in Birthday Treats</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our School discos are via a pre-booked ticket system where children are given a drink snack of their choice to avoid children needing any additional money with them. • Staff do not expect gifts from children by way of showing appreciation – an email or handwritten note is personal and very much appreciated. 	
School Trips and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a trip or activity (excluding the Year 6 residential) has a cost attached, we ask parents for a 'contribution' towards the cost. Any shortfall is met by the school but, if insufficient contributions are received, the trip may be cancelled. • We always give parents as much notice as we can of activities and trips to allow time to save and pay. • We use ParentPay to pay for trips or events to ensure privacy. • For the Y6 residential we aim to give parents opportunities to pay in instalments in order to help spread the cost. In addition we look at any requests for financial help to support families and ensure all children have access to all opportunities. • We always negotiate with families who may be facing financial difficulties and agree a payment plan which may exceed the date of the activity/event. • We do not operate a first come, first served payment policy for any trip or event. • We never read out names of children who have not paid. If necessary the office staff will communicate directly with parents. • We encourage children to leave toys at home, this includes trading cards and stickers. This will help to ensure children are not excluded from friendship groups. • We focus our 'show and tell' sessions around more generic themes e.g. something that has made you happy/proud this week. We discourage toys/possessions being brought in to school as this can highlight inequalities. 	Ensure this is shared among all staff and share ideas to re-focus classroom discussions/oracy sessions.

Neville's Cross is an inclusive family where all are nurtured to become creative, confident and resilient learners supported to reach their unique potential. Our children develop skills to become active and respectful members of our school, community and society and during their time at Neville's Cross, make memories to cherish.