



## The Wiltshire Affordable Schools Strategy

Corsham Primary embraces the following principles of 'affordable schooling', in our drive to be inclusive for all our families:

- Cost of living can affect us all. We may all experience life changing events at some point in our lives
- Schools are a huge part of the community- they can make a difference
- Every day, in every interaction, however small, there may be an opportunity to bring about positive changes for children

### **Cost of living information and support for parents and carers**

At Corsham Primary, we understand that the cost of supporting your children through school can put pressure on your household budgets. We know that families are facing pressures with continued increases in cost of living for essentials like food, heating and fuel.

We understand how hard it can be when children are unable to take part in activities because of cost. Our aim is for **every pupil to feel comfortable, confident, and fully included** in school life. We are committed to making school as affordable as possible for families and to helping you access support if you are facing financial pressures.

### **Practical Strategies we have in place to support Affordability:**

Minimum requirement for uniform with logos: only the school jumper/cardigan has a school logo.

Pre-loved uniform availability: We actively promote the passing on and resale of uniform in the interests of affordability and sustainability

Special consideration given to planning of trips and events: an affordability focus for the overall costs as well as additional equipment needed, such as waterproofs.

Additionally, the school carefully considers the cost burden to parents over a school year, for example the number of themed days/requests for donations.

Subsidy of cost of trips: Pupil Premium children are entitled to a subsidy towards the cost of residential trips, covering board and lodgings. We also offer personalised payment plans for those families who need it.

### **Getting Help**

We know that talking about money worries can feel difficult. Many people try to manage alone and only seek help once things become overwhelming. We encourage you to reach out sooner rather than later—there is **no shame in asking for support**. Both the school and the organisations we can signpost you to, will treat all matters with sensitivity and confidentiality.

Please talk to us if you have any concerns so that we can work together to make sure your child can access every opportunity at school, regardless of cost. Contact the school office or Mrs Sophie Challis, our Family Support Officer.

There are also many sources of support from both local and national organisations. Here are some key agencies that we recommend:

### **Support for your family and school:**

You can apply for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium if you get any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit if your household income is less than £7,400 a year or £616.67 a month after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

This entitles your child to free school meals, beyond EYFS and KS1 where this provision is universal, as well as a wide range of additional support for your child (academic, cost of the school day support and wellbeing).

Please note you can still apply and register your eligibility, even if your child gets the Universal EYFS and KS1 free school meal, as it will trigger pupil premium funding.

Information for parents about access and benefits of claiming FSM can be found at: [Free school meals – Wiltshire Council](#).

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll also qualify for the [Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#).