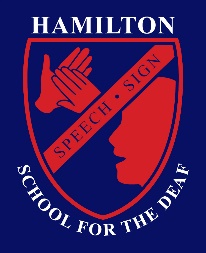
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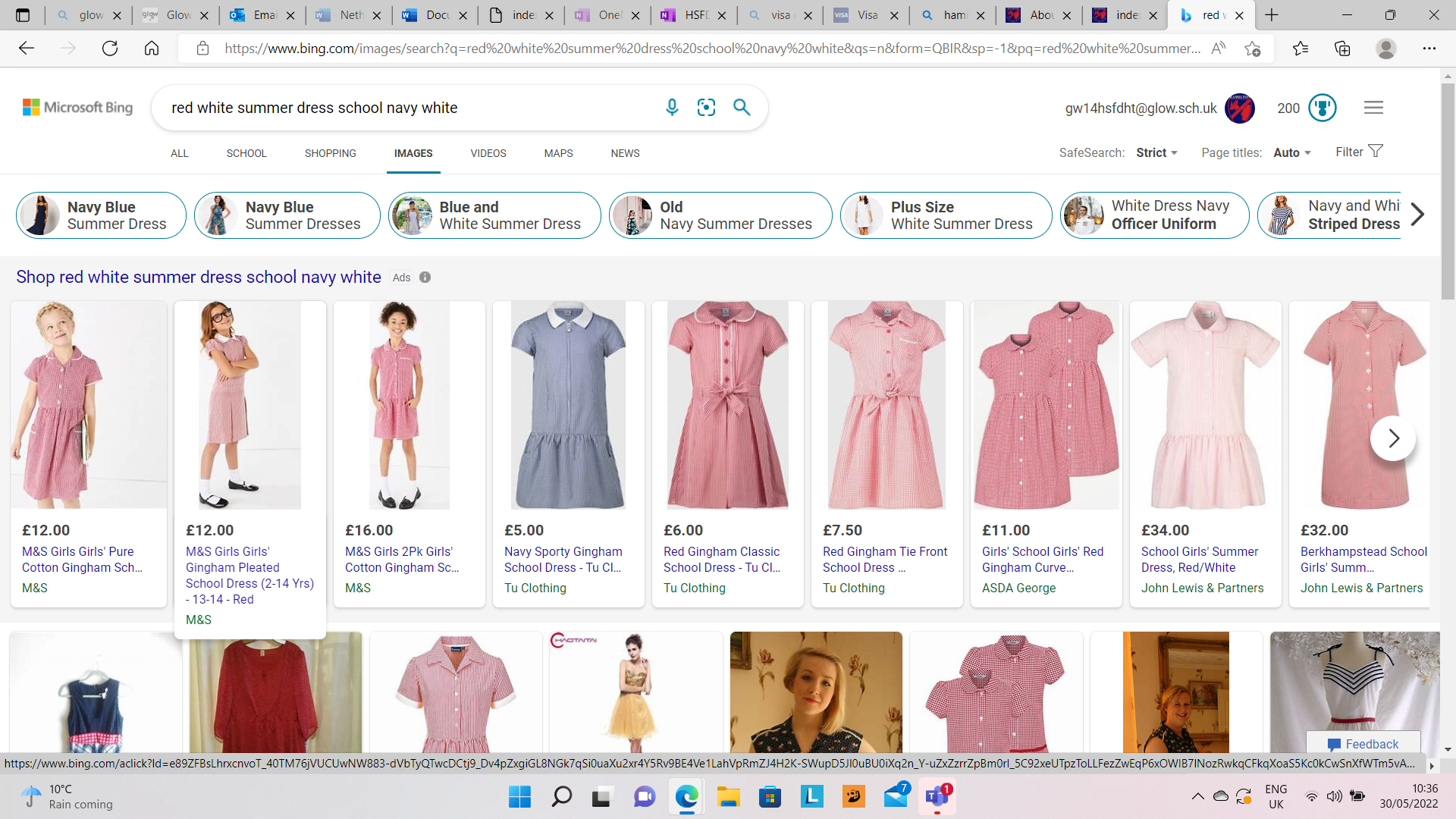
***The Cost of the School Day – Hamilton School for the Deaf***

**Rationale**

At Hamilton School for the Deaf, we recognise the need to reduce the Cost of the School Day for all our pupils and particularly for our pupils who are already experiencing poverty. We examine the School Day through the following headings: Uniform, Clothing, Travel, Learning, Audiology, Communication, Friendship, School trips, Period Poverty, Eating, Fun and Clubs and Home learning.

**Uniform**

Our current uniform consists of; plain black trousers or skirt, red or navy polo shirt, red or navy jumper or cardigan, white shirt and school tie and red/white or navy/white summer dresses. Our P.E. uniform consists of plain shorts, plain t-shirt and suitable shoes for sports with non-marking soles. We do not insist on badged sweatshirts/polo shirts to reduce costs for families and promote uniform seasonal offers. However, badged uniforms can be ordered from Scotcrest in Hamilton - [Scotcrest Schools | School Uniform Supplier Scotland](https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/) . We have a recycled uniform bank for all pupils to access throughout the school year and a bank of uniform that can be given to families if/when required funded through or Participatory Budget. Families are supported to apply for clothing grants when required. P7 hoodies are provided by the school at no additional cost to families and secondary ties are supplied to all pupils at the end of their final term in P7. Families can contact the school discretely to ask for any support required in funding school uniform.



**Clothing**

We have access to a ‘Nearly New’ clothing bank of clothes donated by staff and families across the Hamilton and Glenlee campus. This is extended to include seasonal clothing such as winter jackets, party dresses around November/December and pre-loved Halloween Costumes in October. All pupils are taxied into school each day which minimises the contact we have with our families, however we have close, positive relationships with our families which consists of regular two-way communication which allows us to provide clothing to those who require it.

**Travel**

Most of our children live outwith the catchment area of the school, some travel from a different local authority. Our pupils travel to school using transport provided by their local authority. For those living within the catchment area, they choose to walk or are transported by family members. Any transport required for transitions or excursions are funded by the school. When afterschool clubs take place after school, we work in partnerships with transport and our families to ensure all learners have full access to any extracurricular events.

**Learning**

Children at Hamilton School for the Deaf do not need to pay for any core learning activities. All stationery is provided and young people do not need to bring their own equipment. Any materials required for home learning is supplied to our families. We ensure all our learners have access to the digital technology required to complete set learning tasks. Our pupils have access to a variety of materials to promote ‘reading for enjoyment’. We have invested in ensuring our library reflects the needs of our learners and have recently increased our provision of books which include deaf characters. Pupils are encouraged to borrow texts to read at home with their families. We recognise our families do not live close to our school and work in collaboration with them to find the best way to share regular updates about their child’s learning, embracing digital technology to limit traveling expenses incurred when attending meetings in school. We aim to film events and upload these to YouTube so all families have access to their child’s performance where travel may be an issue.

**Audiology**

Daily audiological checks take place in school where batteries and tubing can be replaced at no additional cost to our families. This limits family travel expenses incurred to and from audiology clinics. We work closely with our Educational Audiologist to ensure we have the appropriate materials required to ensure hearing aids and additional equipment is well maintained. We have provided Roger Touch Screen microphones and receivers to provide the best access to spoken word at no additional cost to our families. Any equipment required from Crosshouse Hospital is posted out to families directly.

**Communication**

We recognise the support our families require in acquiring and developing British Sign Language. Staff provide signed videos or appropriate links to British Sign Language vocabulary to support communication. We would not expect any of our families to have to pay to acquire or develop their BSL skills and would direct families to the NDCS Family Sign Programme. We now have our own BSL Tutor inhouse and are offering our families and friends of the school access to free BSL tuition. BSL is now on offer to pupils across the campus as a lunch time club and a session for staff, including taxi drives and escorts is also available.

**Friendships**

At Hamilton School for the Deaf, we pride ourselves on the strong relationships we have with our families, children and young people. Staff are skilled in providing nurturing, pastoral care and have an in-depth knowledge of our children to ensure that we meet the holistic needs of our learners. We will continue to teach young people about poverty related issues as part of our Health and Well Being curriculum through whole school and stage assemblies and the promotion of our nurturing ethos. We provide opportunities for our learners to meet with deaf peers from across Scotland and beyond with our ‘Signs Across the Sea’ initiative with a School for the Deaf in America. We will continue to gather views and opinions on ‘The Cost of the School Day’ and to involve children, families and staff in decision making around this.

**School Trips**

Currently our trips are planned each year in response to the learning and conversations within the classroom. All trips are funded by the school so no cost in passed on to our families. Our Participatory Budgeting also voted to use an allocation of our money towards reducing the cost for opportunities for our learners to meet with deaf peers from across the country. Our children have the opportunity to attend various events throughout the school year which are fully funded by the school e.g. Deaf Football event in Kilmarnock, Deaf Service in Glasgow, visits to meet other deaf peers either at their school or in a mutually agreed venue, accessible pantomime and art performances. The transport for all of these activities are provided free of charge. As of session 22/23, our P5-7 pupils will attend a three day residential experience which will be funded by PEF at no cost to our families. Our P7 pupils attend a residential event with their mainstream peers in Glenlee. The number of days was reduced from 5 to 3 and is now booked during quieter months to reduce costs. Parents are able to pay the cost of the trip in instalments over 12 months and pupils who receive Free School Meal entitlement and / or reside in SIMD deciles 1 or 2 can receive financial support. The centres used provides all specialist clothing and equipment so no extra cost is incurred.

**Period Poverty**

Within the school, there are sanitary products for all to access to tackle period poverty. The products are positioned in the girls’ toilet and the disabled toilet to provide discrete access to all. Free products are given out annually to all girls during the RSHP lessons and if/when required. When South Lanarkshire Council teamed up with Hey Girls to offer free period products to all South Lanarkshire residents who need them - regardless of your income or personal circumstances, we communicated this to all our families. This allowed all families to order free period products to be delivered directly to their home.

**Eating**

All our learners are entitled to Free School Meals. Due to the introduction of ParentPay we feel there is no stigma associated with a free lunch. Our pupils have the option to attend the Glenlee Breakfast Club that runs from 8.00am to 8.45am each day. This facility is free and ensures children attending have access to a healthy breakfast, physical and creative play on a daily basis. At the start of each day, everybody is offered fruit and toast. We always have a supply of fresh fruit for anyone who requires it. When celebrating events such as birthdays and cultural events, we provide all food and drink at no additional cost to families. If families require support in providing food for their family, the school will provide support through referral to appropriate agencies e.g. local foodbank, community links etc.

**Fun Events and Clubs**

Hamilton School for the Deaf recognise that events planned for enjoyment can actually put added pressure on to families. As with school trips, our fun events and any clubs are free of charge to our families. Over the course of the year, all children take part in swimming, outdoor learning experiences and food technology experiences, which are completely funded by the school. We currently fundraise by having our Christmas Sign-a-long across the local community to subsidise the cost of the school day for our families. Other fundraising events have been successful in previous years; we will look to introduce these again in the new school year to allow us to continue to subsidise the cost of the school day for families.

**Home Learning**

We try to reduce the cost of learning at home as much as possible by providing all materials when required. This ensures that all pupils no matter their family circumstances can complete any homework activity. We recognise the immense effort and concentration required by our pupils to get through a school day and the wellbeing of our families is of great importance to us, therefore homework is not linked to our Positive Relationship policy.

**Fundraising**

To raise school funds which support us ensuring the school day is free, we seek opportunities to fundraise within our local community whilst developing skills of life, learning and work. As we are passionate about raising the profile of our school and the skills of our staff and young people, we combine our fundraising efforts and raise deaf awareness through presenting signed Christmas songs during our fundraising week in December. This is a very successful and fun week.

**Review**

We are very clear that ‘The Cost of the School Day; is an area that requires a constant focus and will strive year on year to ensure it is central to all school developments and improvements, involving our families, learners and staff.