

57940 Leith Walk Primary

Where does school lunch money go if must children have packed lunches? Primary Leith Walk Primary, if not in general in Edinburgh.

This relates to all school meals, not just Free School Meals (FSM).

In **P1 to P5** everyone is entitled to a free lunch, so there are two options:

1. If pupils want to take advantage of this then the parent/carer places an order on ParentPay but they are not charged.
 - The City of Edinburgh Council would cover the cost of the meal and the Council would be reimbursed by the Scottish Government
2. If pupils do not want to take the free school lunch and would prefer to bring their own lunch, then they can do this.
 - There are no costs to the parents/carers, the Council or Scottish Government

For **P6 and P7**, there are four options:

1. For families on low incomes and where they meet the criteria for school grants, eligible pupils are entitled to a free meal (also milk and school clothing)
 - No cost to the parent. Scottish Government reimburses the Council.
2. If a P6 or P7 pupil is not eligible for school grants, but they receive the Scottish Child Payment, then they are also entitled to free meals, but would not benefit from the free milk and clothing.
 - No cost to the parent. Scottish Government reimburses the Council.
3. For P6 and P7 pupils not eligible for a free lunch, they can order a lunch on ParentPay and the cost of the lunch would be deducted from their ParentPay account.
 - Parent/carer covers the cost of the lunch. There is no cost to the Council or Scottish Government
4. For P6 and P7 pupils not eligible for a free lunch, they can bring in their own lunch
 - Parent/carer covers the cost of the lunch. There is no cost to the Council or Scottish Government

School lunch money is paid by parents where pupils are not eligible for a free school meal. The money is mostly paid via ParentPay and goes into a central City of Edinburgh Council Bank Account. This money covers the cost of the meals. The free school meal costs are covered by funding from the Scottish Government. Scottish Government Free School Meal funding can also support with:

- any initiatives to extend the offer of free school meals to include more pupils
- payments (in lieu of meals) to eligible pupils during the school holidays, school closure days, etc.

- school meal debt write-offs, which happen occasionally.

For more information please see:

<https://www.mygov.scot/primary-school-meals>

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/food-clothing/free-school-meals-school-clothing-grants>

Are teachers at Leith Walk Primary trained in what neurodivergent is and how to manage and care for children in their classes?

Yes, training in neurodivergence is part of teacher training and also part of Continuing Professional Development for all teachers.

Why do some schools have more teaching assistants than others?

This is included in my response to you on 09/12/2025 and is published on our Disclosure Log at:

<https://edinburgh.axlr8.uk/disclose/>

Enter '58649' in the Search field.

Whilst budget is allocated using the formula previously indicated, some schools are currently experiencing recruitment issues and have not been able to recruit suitable candidates.

Does Leith Walk Primary have funding to recruit more Pupil Support Assistants?

Leith Walk Primary has as many Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) as their budget allows.

They recently recruited for an additional fixed-term PSA because they have been given additional support hours. The PSA will hopefully be in place in December 2025.

Who decides on the distribution of money and where it goes at this school?

All local authorities have a Devolved School Management (DSM) Scheme which sets out local authorities' financial processes for funding their schools. It outlines financial decisions that can be made in schools, including where the accountability and responsibility lie. Although the detail of the scheme varies across local authorities, all local authorities use the same national guidelines.

Within the City of Edinburgh Council, this scheme is part of our DSM Framework. Most education funding is given to schools and managed by the Head Teacher with support from the School Senior Leadership Team. The rest of the funding is managed by staff within the Education and Children's Services Department.

Head Teachers have some flexibility over the use of their funding so that they can best meet the needs of their schools. Schools receive an annual budget allocation which is mostly aligned with pupil numbers but also links to pupil Additional Support Needs and poverty. Head Teachers can move money between different budget areas and can carry forward a percentage of their unspent budget from one financial year to the next. Budget planning starts in December/January for the next school year in August. This is when likely school rolls are agreed, and staffing allocations are shared with schools.

The scheme supports openness and working together. Schools will have a School Finance Committee (or similar) that meets to make sure staff, pupils, parents/carers are informed and engaged. Participatory Budgeting is also a tool Head Teachers can use to include others in spending decisions.

More information available at the link below:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schools-learning/devolved-school-management>

Why has the mile a day stopped at this school?

Leith Walk Primary School has not done the Daily Mile since 2019 (pre-Covid). They have no record of why this decision was made.

Is there a plan in place from Edinburgh Council to improve the quality of support for children who have additional needs?

The quality of support for children with Additional Support Needs is constantly under review through a variety of mechanisms including school reviews and inspections, data analysis, thematic reviews, and feedback from stakeholders. This information feeds into the actions of the Edinburgh Learns inclusion board who take forward strategic pieces of work to improve practice in relation to inclusion.