

Children and Young People: Your view on poverty

Every year at Children in Wales, we ask children and young people in Wales about poverty. They give us their views about poverty and tell us what they think.


Here's what they said this year (2021):

Poverty and Money


We asked what affects children and young people who live in poverty the most. They said

1. **Not having enough money to pay for food, heating and electric**
2. **Worrying about money all of the time**
3. **Being in debt**

They also said that children and young people who live in poverty were affected by bullying and were stressed and worried. They said:



*"Bullying, hungry,
dirty clothes and
being seen differently
to your friends.
No toys"
(Under 10yrs)*



*"They get bullied by
people for not having
as good things"
(14-16yrs)*

You can read the full report on the
[Children in Wales Website](https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/).

Some children and young people might feel worried or upset about some of these things. If you are, then you can speak to someone about it. You can contact MEIC. It's free and you don't have to give your name. Visit meiccyw.org or phone 080880 23456.

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Poverty and School

We asked what affects children and young people who live in poverty the most when at school. They said

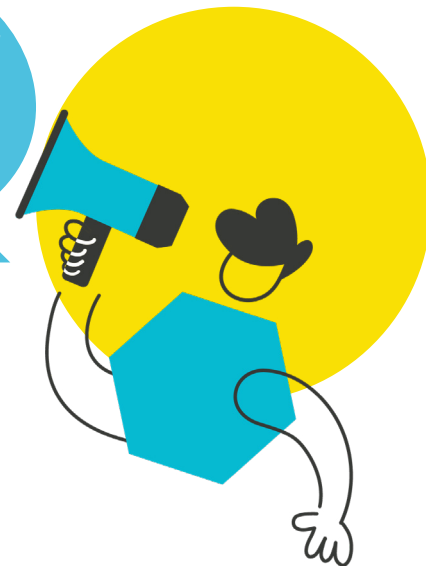
1. **Being bullied or looked down on**
2. **Not having enough money to go on school trips**
3. **Not having enough money to buy the right school uniform**

Almost all of the children and young people talked about being bullied because of poverty. They said that children and young people felt left out at school. They might feel sad or embarrassed and have no confidence and low esteem. They said:



"I think poverty affects young people in schools as they might be bullied because they have a second hand uniform or a small lunch"
(10-13yrs)

"You get made to feel inferior"
(14-16yrs)



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Poverty and Home

We asked what affects children and young people who live in poverty the most when they are at home. They said:


1. **Living in a cold and damp home**
2. **Being worried that they haven't got enough money to stay where they live**
3. **Not being able to have friends over because they are embarrassed**

Children and young people said the home was very important, but it does sometimes make them worry. They said:




"We've got less money than we've ever had before. My Mum worries about money all the time, especially the debt man coming round. She looks really scared and cries afterwards."

(14-16yrs)



"Parents are upset and stressed and it means everyone in the house is sad"

(Under 10)



"Being lonely and depressed"

(10-13yrs)

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Poverty and the Community

We asked what affects children and young people who live in poverty the most when they are in their community. They said:

1. Living in a place where they don't feel safe to go outside
2. Not having transport to get around
3. Not having enough money for transport


Children and young people said that those who lived in poverty were being bullied in their community. They said that they would be bullied because of where they live and that people would look down on them. They also said:



"Can't go out with friends because of not having money to buy food or anything and if there is money, feeling bad for spending it"
(14-16yrs)



Everyone in my community is poor. In town, I feel people look down on us"
(14-16yrs)



"My youth club is now free to go to, but not able to join in, no spending money"
(14-16yrs)

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My voice matters

We asked children and young people to say anything they wanted to about poverty. These are some of their comments

"It's very sad, I need to help them. I want to be able to use what I have or school has to help them"
(14-16yrs)

"Poverty affects every aspect of their lives"
(10-13yrs)

"Children in poverty just want to be equal to everyone else"
(Under 10)

"No one should be living in poverty"
(10-13yrs)

"Has a huge impact on our mental health. I hate being poor"
(Under 10)

"Stop making a judgement on those who try very hard to manage with very little spare money. Give us all free school meals"
(10-13yrs)



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If I was in charge....

We asked children and young people a really big question. If they were in charge, what would they do to stop poverty happening. Here are just some of their comments:



"Increase employment rates in rural areas, better transport for those in rural areas so that they can also enjoy a range of different activities in the community"
(14-16yrs)



"Free school meals at summer holiday time"
(Under 10)

"Think how to help people in need without making them feel poor. Needing help feels shameful, even if people don't mean to be like that"
(14-16yrs)

"I think most of my friends get free school meals but me and my two sisters don't, which isn't fair and I don't get why. Everyone should be paid fairly in the first place. I don't know how you do that. I'm 16 and I've always been poor as long as I can remember. The man who got elected seems like a nice man, but I don't know if he is going to do anything about it."
(16yrs)

"Make school meals and trips free for everyone"
(Under 10s)



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