



# The Price of Pupil Poverty

Taking a whole school approach to improving the well-being of children from low income and disadvantaged families



## Information Sheets - Guides 1 - 5

The following information sheets provide a summary of each of the Price of Pupil Poverty five guides. They highlight the main impact on a learner's well-being, provides key areas for consideration, and some quick solutions to possible barriers pupils from low income and disadvantaged families can experience in a school setting.

These information sheets can offer a snapshot of the guides and help with introducing each one, and their themes, to members of staff within the school. They can also help to start some conversations and discussions around poverty, and what schools can do to develop an action plan in line with the guidance.

The guides can be found on the Welsh Government's Education Hwb website - <https://bit.ly/2uZCZ9w>

For further information please contact: [kate.thomas@childreninwales.org.uk](mailto:kate.thomas@childreninwales.org.uk)



# The Price of Pupil Poverty

## What does this mean and what can schools do?

### Impact on learners

Poverty can make children feel excluded, stigmatised and bullied.

It impacts on children's education and life chances, missing out the opportunity to be the best they can be.

### Key areas to consider

#### Early identification

Detailed knowledge of their needs

#### Policy

Review policies in line with poverty

#### Awareness of poverty

Do staff and pupils have an understanding of what poverty really means?

#### The curriculum

In what areas does understanding poverty fit

### Some quick solutions

- Appoint an equity Champion from school staff
- Recognise/Identify pupils from low income or disadvantaged families
- Engage with parents/carers
- Raise awareness of benefits and grants that they may be entitled to
- Develop an action plan
- Appoint an Equity Ambassador from amongst the learners in school
- Take a whole school approach
- Provide training for staff to recognise signs of poverty
- Increase engagement & commitment from a range of stakeholders at regional, local authority and community levels
- Use existing resources

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# The Price of Pupil Poverty

## What does this mean and what can schools do?

### Impact on learners

Attending School without correct uniform can lead to worry and anxiety.

Feelings of embarrassment, potential bullying and being pitied by peers and school staff heighten the stress for learner's.

### Some quick solutions

- Consult with parents, pupils & governors
- Consider flexibility when adhering to uniform
- Consider how uniform infringements are handled by staff
- Consider ways uniform could be made less expensive for all families
- Recycling of lost property/items of uniform that have been out-grown or no longer needed
- Raise awareness of benefits and grants that they may be entitled to
- Provide training for staff to recognise signs of poverty
- Recognise/Identify, monitor and support learner's from low in-come/disadvantaged families in a sensitive and positive manner

### Key areas to consider

#### Policy

Is this in line with WG guidance?

#### Recycle Schemes

Have you considered this?

#### Affordability

Consider total costs of required school uniform

#### Cause for Concern

Can you recognise signs and are there process in place to deal with this well and with sensitivity?

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# The Price of Pupil Poverty

## What does this mean and what can schools do?

### Impact on learners

Hunger affects both children's learning and their behaviour.

Hungry children can't concentrate, so learning is impaired.

They will become more irritable and stressed.

### Key areas to consider

#### FSM Promotion

What does the school do to increase this?

#### Holiday Hunger

What is available in your area for pupils?

#### School Breakfasts

Does it operate to benefit those in need?

#### Cause for Concern

Can you recognise signs and are there process in place to deal with this well and with sensitivity?

### Some quick solutions

- Ensure all parents/carers are aware of the free school meals programme
- Support parents/carers to apply for free school meals and other benefits such as Healthy start voucher scheme
- Monitor & track free school meals
- Ensure enough sufficient free breakfast club spaces
- Introduce conversation around food insecurity as part of curriculum
- Provide training for staff to recognise signs of poverty and hunger
- Recognise/identify & support learner's from low income/disadvantaged families in a sensitive and positive manner

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# The Price of Pupil Poverty

## What does this mean and what can schools do?

### Impact on learners

Missing out on the ability to participate fully in school life (trips, activities, access to equipment, subject choices) due to costs, results in learner's low self-esteem, confidence and well-being.

### Some quick solutions

- Engage with local companies, enterprises and institutions to bring activities into the school
- Ensure costs associated with particular subjects are not a deterrent to pupils
- Access/inform parents of small education grants or bursaries to support learners in purchasing specialist equipment for a particular subject
- Consider approaches to subsidising costs of school trips without stigmatising
- Provide sufficient notice of school trips and allow payments in instalments
- Raise awareness of PDG Access Fund to those families that are eligible

### Key areas to consider

#### Enrichment Activities

What can be used/done to prevent exclusion?

#### Resources & Materials

Do these cause unintentional barriers and stigma?

#### School Trips

Are they realistic in terms of cost and payment methods?

#### Events

Are they inclusive?

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# The Price of Pupil Poverty

## What does this mean and what can schools do?

### Impact on learners

Where a child lives, who they live with and the environment in which they live all impact a child's ability to learn at school.

Feelings of shame and stigma can lead to a learner's low attainment and well-being.

### Key areas to consider

#### Parental Engagement

Is this effective?

#### Homework

Does the school homework policy ensure tasks have no costs attached?

#### Transport & After School Activities

Are activities really accessible for all?

### Some quick solutions

- Develop a whole school culture and ethos
- Consider the Welsh Government's Family Engagement Toolkit
- Use PDG money to fund a family engagement worker
- Review the school homework policy to ensure inclusivity and ability to complete tasks at home
- Offer opportunities to parents/carers for their own learning development through family learning events
- Adopt a policy of visiting all new pupils in their home
- Encourage parent/carer voice
- Audit who takes part in after school activities and consider if transport is a barrier to disadvantaged learners attending

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