

Cost of the School Day

PARENT COUNCIL CHAIR MEETING
WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Child Poverty

- ▶ **Child poverty in Scotland** is up from 230,000 to 240,000, or one in five children, with 65% of children in poverty living in working families.
- ▶ Experiencing child poverty can undermine the health, wellbeing and educational attainment of children.
- ▶ 61% of low-income families with children in Scotland can't afford to make regular savings of £10 a month or more.
- ▶ 51% report that they don't have a small amount of money to spend each week on themselves.
- ▶ 10% can't afford to have friends of their children round for tea or a snack once a fortnight.

The Attainment Gap

- ▶ Children from higher income families significantly outperform those from low income households at ages 3 and 5. By age 5 there is a gap of ten months in problem solving development and of 13 months in vocabulary (Source: [JRF](#)).
- ▶ Three year olds in households with incomes below £10,000 are two and a half times more likely to suffer chronic illness than children in households with incomes above £52,000 (Source: [Donald Hirsch](#)).
- ▶ There are strong links between the experience of child poverty and poor mental health. One study shows that children living in low-income households are nearly three times as likely to suffer mental health problems than their more affluent peers (Source: [JRF](#)).
- ▶ As well as being harmful to children and families child poverty has a wider cost for society. A 2013 study estimated that the high levels of child poverty in the UK are currently costing the country at least £29 billion a year. (Source: [Donald Hirsch](#)).



School Uniform

Schools set their own uniform policy and parent councils can have a big influence!

What can we do to reduce the cost of school uniform ?

PRE LOVED STIRLING

School Trips

School trips can be difficult for some families and children miss out on the fun, new experiences and personal development opportunities.

Families can be embarrassed about asking for financial help .

What should we be doing to support school trips ?

Eating at school

Not everyone entitled to free school meals takes up the entitlement

Pupil Equity Funding is connected to free school meals

How can we promote free school meals sensitively ?

Other areas to consider

Travel

School clubs

Fundraising and events

Home learning

Attitudes to poverty

INFORMATION

**Child Poverty Action Group
Scotland**

<https://cpag.org.uk/scotland/cost-school-day>