

**Poverty Proofing®**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Poverty Proofing® the School Day

We all know that rising costs of living, job losses and stagnant wages are placing a lot of pressure on family finances and that the pandemic has exacerbated this for many. We are working with your school as it strives to remove any barriers to children's learning, ensuring pressure on household income doesn't have a negative impact on any child's education.

We are currently working in Hall Green Primary School to support the school to Poverty Proof® the School Day. This means your school is looking to ensure that every child has the same opportunities throughout the school day. We are speaking to all pupils, teachers and governors and would like to get your views as parents/carers too. We will be discussing things such as access to trips, after school clubs and music tuition, the costs of uniform, how free school meals are administered and how children access food during the school day.

I will be in school week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and it would be great to get the views of as many parents/carers as possible. It would be really useful if you could fill in the attached questionnaire as soon as possible and send it in with your child or use the following link: <https://children-ne.org.uk/poverty-proofing/survey?uac=12b4cb4d-dd93-43dc-9d79-07adb8f487ab>

We will be working with the school to address the issues raised. All responses are anonymous and you do not have to give your name.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Johnson and Rachael Wolffel



Sandwell Virtual School



1) Which year group is your child / children in? (Please tick all that apply)

Nursery  Reception  Year 1  Year 2  Year 3  Year 4  Year 5  Year 6

2) Are any of your children entitled to Free School Meals (when not free for all pupils after Year 2)?

Yes  No

3) How often does the school ask for money?

Weekly  Monthly  Half Termly  Termly  Annually  Never

4) What are you required to buy or pay for as part of your child's school day? (Please tick all that apply)

Clubs & Activities <input type="checkbox"/>	Trips <input type="checkbox"/>	Charity / Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/>
Learning resources <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. stationery, revision guides, art materials etc)	Fun events <input type="checkbox"/> (e.g. discos, celebrations, fairs)	Food <input type="checkbox"/> (other than main lunch)

5) If there are other optional costs, please note them here:

.....  
 .....

6) Have you ever struggled with school-associated costs?

Yes  No

Please explain:

.....  
 .....

7) I think the costs the school expects parents/carers to pay are reasonable.

Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Agree  Strongly Agree

Please explain:

.....  
 .....

8) I think the school gives enough notice when they ask for money.

Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neither Agree nor Disagree  Agree  Strongly Agree

Please explain:

.....  
 .....

9) Do you think school meals provide good value for money?

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

10) If your child/ren bring in a packed lunch, why do they not have school dinner?

The cost  Not enough food  Child does not like food on offer

Other  (please specify): .....

11) Does the school have a good understanding of financial problems families can face?

A great deal  A lot  A moderate amount  A little  None at all

12) Does the school provide good support for pupils and families who are having financial problems?

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

13) If you needed support with financial problems, how comfortable would you feel approaching the school for help?

Very  Quite  Neither comfortable  Quite  Very   
comfortable comfortable nor uncomfortable uncomfortable uncomfortable

14) Do you know who you could contact at school if you were having difficulties affording items or activities that the school has asked payment for?

Yes  No

15) Is there support available at school to help pay for any items, events or activities (e.g. uniform, school lunches, trips and fun events, materials for learning)

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never  Don't Know

16) Does the school refer parents/carers to additional sources of support outside of school?

Yes  No  Don't Know

17) Is the school a welcoming place for pupils and their families, however much money they have?

Always  Usually  Sometimes  Rarely  Never

18) What more could the school do to support families on low incomes to afford the cost of school?

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19) Do you have any further comments about the school?

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