



PLANT YNG NGHYMURU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Price of Pupil Poverty Guides Webinar

4 November 2021
10am – 11am

Chair: Karen McFarlane, Children in Wales
Presenter: Kate Thomas, Children in Wales





Understanding
Poverty

1

School Uniform
and Clothing

2

Food and Hunger

3

Participation in the
Life of the School

4

Home-School
Relationship

5

The Price of Pupil Poverty

Taking a Whole School Approach to
Improving the Well-being of children from
low income and disadvantaged families





1. Background/Summary of the Guides
2. The Impact of Poverty on Children & Young People in a School Setting
3. How best to implement the Guides
4. Possible solutions and Ideas

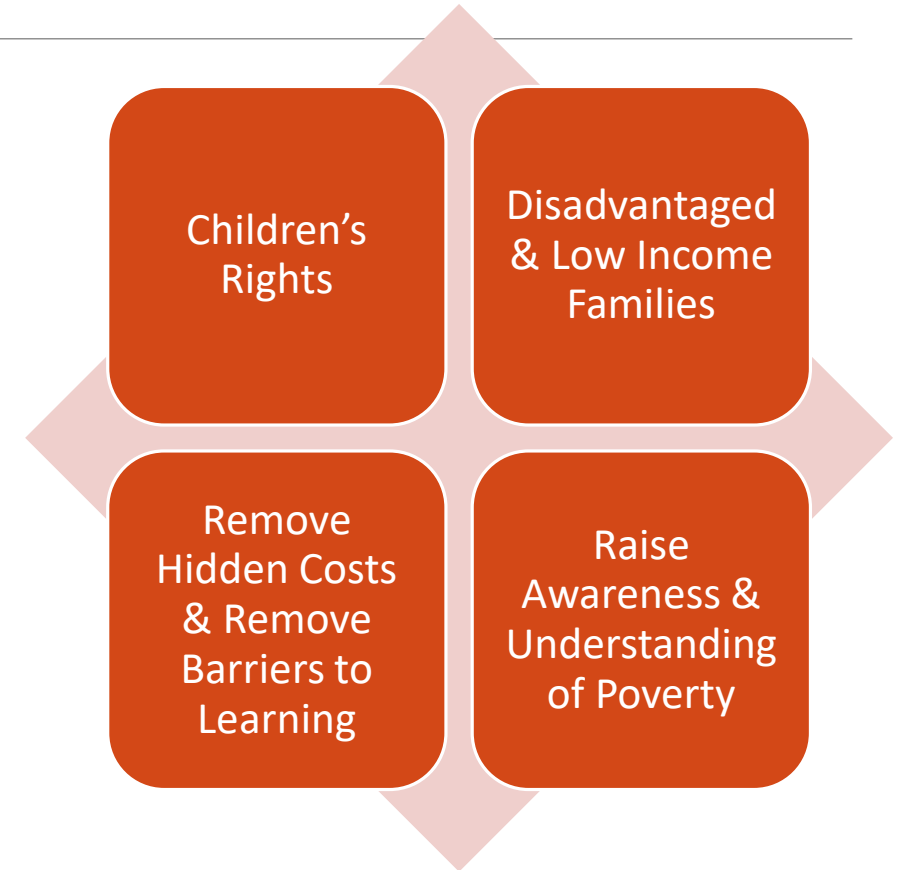
Price of Pupil Poverty: Background

WG commitment to tackling

- child poverty
- improving mental health
- emotional well-being

PDG - Guides compliment the scheme

- Use in schools & settings is encouraged



Designed in Wales – Developed in Wales – For Schools in Wales

Price of Pupil Poverty: The Guides

- A resource for schools & settings in Wales
- Practical steps and solutions to a whole school approach
- Remove Barriers and 'cost' of learning



- Covers 5 Key Areas that impact those in poverty in a school setting
- Covid -19 specific mini guides developed in May 2020

Benefits...



YOUR SCHOOL/SETTING WILL ACHIEVE:

- Poverty awareness for all
- Policies and practices that remove stigma
- Reduction or removal of 'cost' barriers to participation and learning
- Reduced financial pressure for families

Child Poverty in Wales

4 in 10
children
living in
poverty in
Wales

- Levels in parts of Wales are some of the highest in UK
- 700,000 people in Wales in Poverty - 200,000 are children
- 40,000 children live in families that receive income-related benefits
- Growing number of children in poverty from working families
- 1 in 5 pupils (85,000) eligible for FSM in 2019/20

Impact of Covid-19

Likely a further 200,000 will fall into poverty
as a result of Covid -19



Pupil Poverty

Every Child has The Right to a 'Free' Education

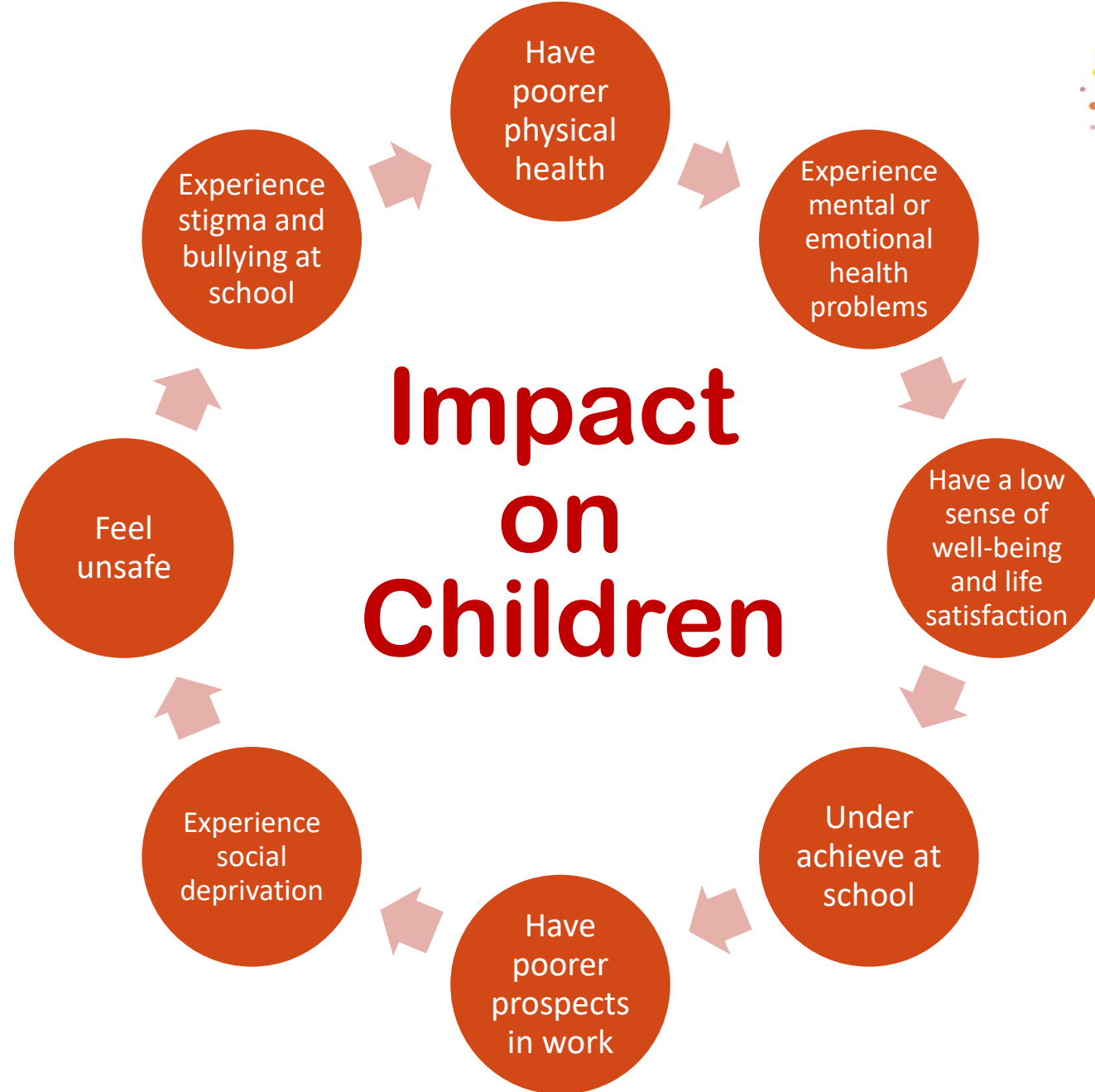
- Shame & stigma
- 'Hidden' costs of day to day school life – problematic
- Children miss out on opportunities

Class of 25
Likely 7 of
those
pupils in
Poverty

CPAG 2020



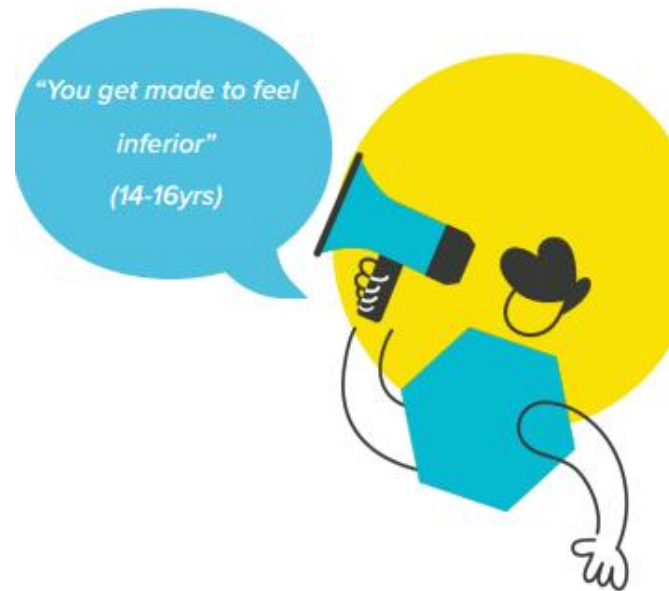
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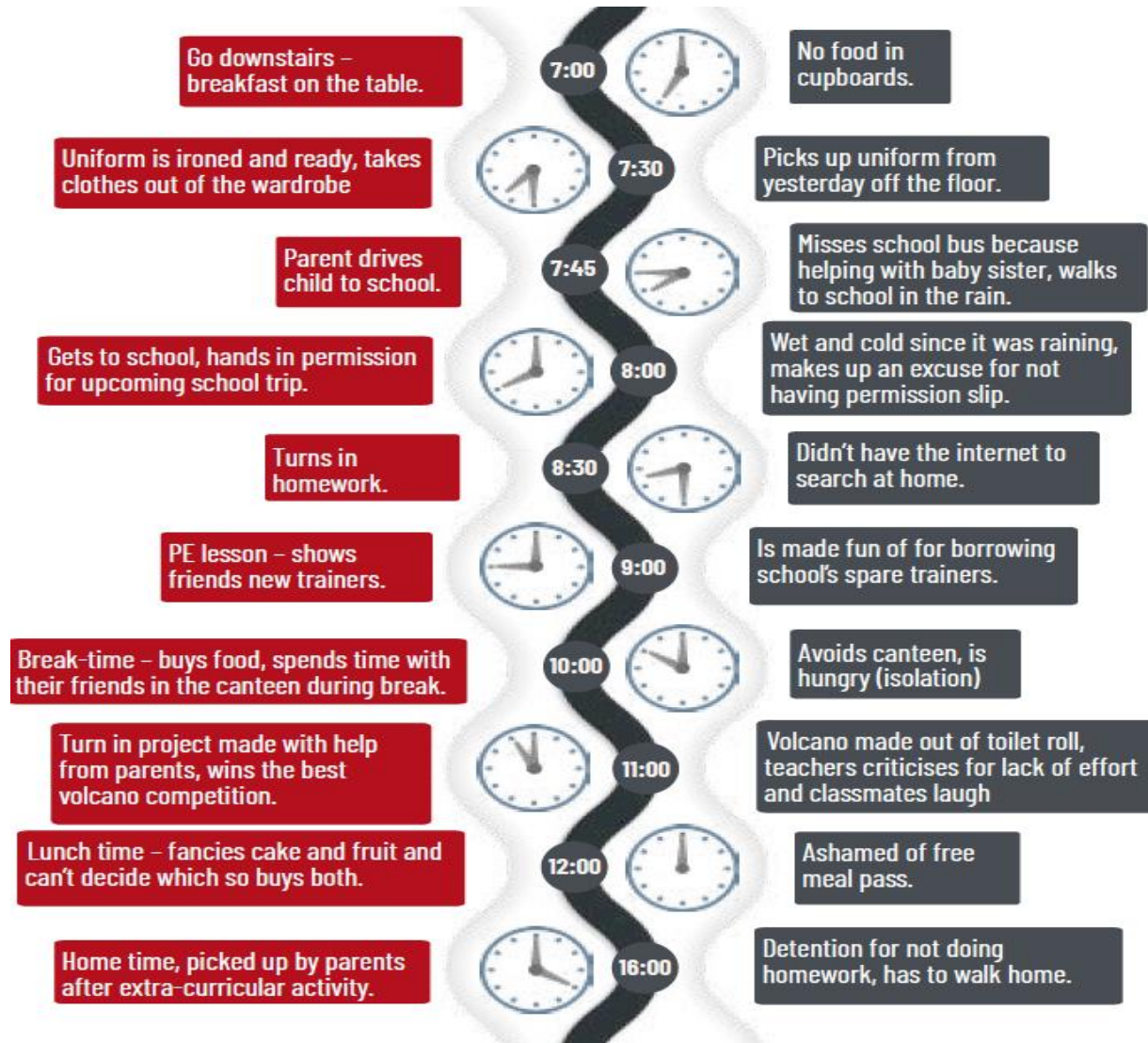
Poverty and School

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



Low Self-Esteem
Left Out
No Confidence
Sadness
Different
Timid
Horrible
Embarrassed



My School Day

Affluence and **Poverty** Perspectives

Practical Challenges

Practical challenges that they have to overcome or negotiate include:

- Right clothes/uniforms
- Travelling & transport costs
- Having the right resources and equipment for lessons
- Stigma and isolation
- Affording trips
- Food and the ability to pay for it
- Extra- curricular activities
- Home learning



The Price of Pupil Poverty

'How to' Implement the guides

Step 1: Use

Familiarise yourself - Take time to read the guides. Look at the key drivers of poverty and how this links to wider policy. Examine the 5 key areas within the guides and the impact they have on children and young people in a school setting on a daily basis.

- Commit to using the guides and making a difference in your school setting
- Nominate a lead to take this work on - This person can help raise awareness of poverty and the guides

Step 2: Consider

Think about... what does poverty look like in your school community? How do you ensure a whole school approach? What is your staff's understanding of poverty? How do you take others on this journey with you?

- The Toolkit of resources developed in line with The Price of Pupil Poverty guides can help you develop a clear action plan to suit your school, with raising awareness resources for staff, a checklist, action plan template and solutions and ideas
- Children in Wales can provide advice/support and training to help you in this journey of implementing the guides

Step 3: Identify

Check where you are at - The checklist focuses on each of the 5 key areas identified within the guides and allows you to really think about your school in relation to poverty and the pupils it affects.

- Use the checklist available from the toolkit of resources to identify where you are at in terms of poverty proofing your school.
- It will help identify the main issues? Highlight any gaps or areas that may need improving or further work
- It will help identify existing measures you have in place and recognise the positive work going on in your school

Step 4: Apply

Action it - Once you've raised awareness, identified specific areas to focus on, have people joining you on the journey a clear action plan is required to make change. What solutions are there? How do you make a difference?

- Use the checklist to develop your action plan - the toolkit of resources has a template that you can use and covers the 5 key areas
- You can create actions in all 5 areas of the guides or just in selective areas where you feel you can make a difference
- The toolkit of resources provides solutions and ideas that you can use to meet any gaps you may have highlighted
- Make it realistic and achievable—What impact would you like it to make—who needs to be involved?

Step 5: Evaluate

What's the difference? - Remember that Price of Pupil Poverty is an on going process, and needs to be embedded in to the school. Things change so communication and monitoring is crucial.

- Need to have agreed points to review progress
- Monitor impact of changes as a result of the guides and action plan
- What further measures could be added/improved on?
- Be willing to share best practice

How to in 5 Steps

Practical simple steps to making a difference in your school/setting

1. Use
2. Consider
3. Identify
4. Apply
5. Review/Evaluate

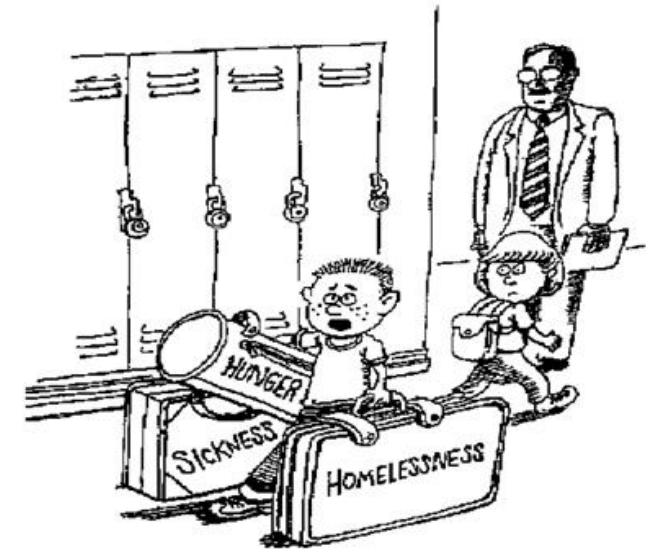


Key Questions....

How does Poverty affect your school community/setting?

What's it really like for those in poverty?

“Could someone help me with these?
I’m late for math class.”



Key Considerations

Reduce Stigma

Assumptions
about what
people can
afford

Hidden Costs

Remove
Barriers to
Learning

Understanding
of the Impact

Not Just About
FSM Pupils

Improve
well-being
of *all* pupils

Solutions

Understanding Poverty

1

- Provide training for staff to recognise signs of poverty
- Provide awareness training
- Review Policies in line with Poverty
- Engage with Parents/Carers/ Children & Young People

School Uniform and Clothing

2

- Raise awareness of benefits and grants that they may be entitled to
- Swap shops for fancy dress/ xmas jumpers
- Recycling of lost property/items of uniform that have been out-grown or no longer needed

Food and Hunger

3

- Ensure all parents/ carers are aware of FSM programme
- Support parents/ carers to apply for FSM
- Provide information on local schemes and food banks
- Can c&yp access snacks or tuck shop

Participation in the Life of the School

4

- Ensure costs associated with particular subjects/activities are not a deterrent
- Raise awareness of PDG Access Fund to those families that are eligible
- Consider approaches to subsidising costs of trips without stigmatising

Home-School Relationship

5

- Offer opportunities to parents/carers for their own learning development through family learning events
- Audit who takes part in after school activities
- Encourage community engagement and make links

Ideas in Practice

It was agreed that the pupils could raise money that would be used to buy everyone a hoodie. Families were asked to contribute £5. The children focused their Enterprise activity in raising money so that everyone could have a hoodie.

Worked with LA using their information to track and contact parents who had not responded to their entitlement to Free School Meals

“Bikes and helmets are provided for children who don’t have them”.

Some schools have tried family taster days, where parents were invited to have lunch with their child



“We have had no xmas jumpers, but every child has designed their own xmas t-shirt- they absolutely loved it.”

“We recycle educational toys to families in need”

“We provide 1 free school sweatshirt and 2 free school polo shirts to families starting in reception”

Teachers delivering specific subject related equipment and resources to pupils homes

You will be able to come into school and take a jumper or cardigan free of charge! They are organised in boxes and can be found in the main reception area.

Pupils in year 13 set up a snack shop, with healthy items available at a discount rate with money raised through fundraising

Development of sharing sheds so that families can recycle uniform & clothes. This saves costs, reduces environmental impact & supports children’s rights.

“We set up virtual tours so that all children could be involved”

Now all items in the canteen are labelled, priced and clear

Resources

School Uniform and Clothing Information Sheet - Guide 2 of 5



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 learners.

Key areas to consider

Policy
Is this in line with Welsh Government guidance?

Recycle Schemes
Have you considered this?

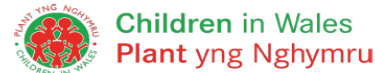
Affordability
Consider total costs of required school uniform

Cause for Concern
Can you recognise signs? Are there processes in place to deal with this well, and with sensitivity?

The guides can be found on the Welsh Government's Education Hwb website - <https://bit.ly/2u7C79w>

Some quick solutions

- Consult with parents, pupils and 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 learners from low income/disadvantaged families in a sensitive and positive manner



The Price of Pupil Poverty

TAKING A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN FROM LOW INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES

What schools can do - Checklist

A tool for schools in Wales that raises awareness of poverty issues and provides tangible and cost effective solutions that can contribute to improved learner well-being

info@childreninwales.org.uk | 029 2034 2434 | www.plantynghymru.org.uk | www.childreninwales.org.uk



Area of Focus	Yes	No	Not sure / Further information / Notes
1			
1.1 Identification & Monitoring			
How many children in your school that may be experiencing poverty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have detailed information on pupils in the school around poverty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have detailed knowledge of the families, their needs and of engagement with learning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you doing enough to support them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have information for setting up appropriate interventions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you monitor the progress of PDG/FSM pupils/students?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions and feed back to these pupils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 School Development Plan & Policy			
Does the school have a link between SDP & poverty outcomes? (if so, what are they?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the school have policies in line with poverty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

THE PRICE OF PUPIL POVERTY



TAKING A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN FROM LOW INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES



- Understanding Poverty 1
- School Uniform and Clothing 2
- Food and Hunger 3
- Participation in the Life of the School 4
- Home-School Relationship 5

A suite of guides have recently been developed which is a resource for schools in Wales, designed in Wales, that raises awareness of pupil poverty issues and provides tangible and cost effective solutions that can contribute to improved learner well-being.

There are 5 guides and each address a different aspect of the school day and explains how poverty impacts them. The guides provide examples of practical steps schools can take by applying a whole school approach to reduce the impact of poverty on the day to day experiences of children in schools which are low or no cost measures.

Children in Wales have a designated worker who will be promoting the guides and is available to provide advice to schools on how to use and implement the guides as well as provide training

Any school who would like to be involved, receive further information or would like training on the guides can contact kate.thomas@childreninwales.org.uk

The guides can be found on the Welsh Government's Education Hwb website - <https://bit.ly/2u7C79w>

The project is supported by funding through the Welsh Government's Support for Learners Division in the Education Directorate.

info@childreninwales.org.uk | 029 2034 2434 | www.plantynghymru.org.uk | www.childreninwales.org.uk



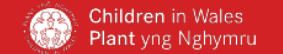
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TAKING A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH TO IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN FROM LOW INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES

What schools can do - Possible solutions/ actions linked to key questions of the checklist

A tool for schools in Wales that raises awareness of poverty issues and provides tangible and cost effective solutions that can contribute to improved learner well-being

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Best Practice Examples

Below you will find a number of examples which demonstrate specific interventions or measures undertaken by schools that are viewed as good practice in relation to the key themes/areas of the guide.

Many of these examples have proven successful outcomes and can be found within a variety of different Estyn reports.

The guides can be found on the Welsh Government's Education Hwb website - <https://bit.ly/2u7C79w>

For further information please contact: kate.thomas@childreninwales.org.uk



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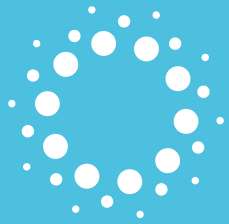


Diolch *Thank You*

For further information please contact:



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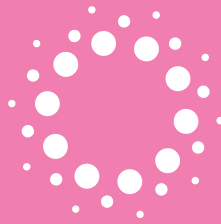
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WHAT CAN CHILDREN IN WALES OFFER YOU?

* A fantastic, low cost Membership Scheme - gain access to our exclusive member-only benefits and access to our brand new membership platform www.childreninwalesmembership.org.uk

* A high quality and varied events and training course programme - book onto any of our events or open courses via our website or, alternatively, you can commission us to develop a bespoke training course just for you by emailing training@childreninwales.org.uk





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* A pathway to working directly with children and young people from across Wales. Our Young Wales initiative is all about listening to children and young people and ensuring that their voices are heard, so if you need to reach out and work with them on a specific project then please contact our Young Wales team.

We now have a section dedicated to children and young people on our website:

www.childreninwales.org.uk/children-young-people





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Poverty-related events and training courses

Webinar – 2 December 2021, 10am – 11am

Poverty the enemy of opportunity – Giving parents the tools to fight inequality by supporting children's early learning

Training course - 3 December 2021, 9:30am-2:30pm

Child Development

Training course – 4 February 2022, 9:30am-12:30pm

Child Poverty Awareness

To book, please visit [Training and Events](#) | [Children in Wales](#)

www.childreninwales.org.uk





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If you were not able to join us for our first poverty-related webinar around the Child & Family Poverty Survey 2021, which was held in October, please click this link to the recording:

https://youtu.be/nlqKCnB_4HE

