

# Cost of the School Day

listening to children and young people in Glasgow schools

How do the ways in which schools do things impact on children and young people from low-income households?

And how can schools ensure that all children and young people, regardless of family income, are protected from stigma, receive the same opportunities and are able to make the most of the school day?

Cost of the School Day is a Glasgow Poverty Leadership Panel project, hosted by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in Scotland and working with Glasgow City Council's Education Services. The project is inspired by the success of Poverty Proofing the School Day from Children North East in England.

## WHAT IS COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY ABOUT?

Poverty is a big issue in Glasgow - 1 in 3 children, more than 36,000, are living in low-income households. We know that school costs can act as a barrier to children participating fully in school life and accessing opportunities which could benefit them. We also know that low-income children and young people are at risk of feeling different and isolated. So how can we make sure that no child misses out or feels bad because of how much money they have at home?

How can we make sure that every child in Glasgow is able to make the most of the school day?

Over the coming year Cost of the School Day will work with children and staff in eight Glasgow schools (primary, secondary and ASL) to identify poverty-related barriers to participation and develop school-specific and practical ways to overcome them.

As well as identifying barriers and problems, a key focus of the project will be uncovering effective approaches which are already taking place.



## WHO IS TAKING PART?

A diverse range of schools are taking part in the project :

### Smithycroft Learning Community

- Smithycroft Secondary School
- Ashcraig School
- Avenue End Primary School
- Royston Primary School

### Cleveden Learning Community

- Cleveden Secondary School
- Abercorn Secondary School
- Caldercuilt Primary School
- Kelvindale Primary School

## WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING SO FAR?

September saw the start of the first Cost of the School Day sessions with children and staff in schools. Using characters and scenarios, we are exploring the day in each school from start to finish with mixed groups of children from P5 to S6.

From getting dressed, travelling to school and eating at school to spending time with friends, learning in the classroom, events, trips, clubs and homework – what would your school be like for a child who had less money at home?

Are there parts of the school day where there is a risk that a young person would miss out on something or feel bad? What is currently done about this and is it working? If not, what should or could be done?

## LOOKING AHEAD

The information gathered and collated from children, young people and staff this term will be presented back to schools and to education services early next year before the project enters its action planning stage.

Common barriers to participation and promising solutions will then be shared widely at the end of this school year.

## FUTURE UPDATES

Please feel free to circulate this email to any colleagues who might be interested. The next update will focus on early project findings and anonymised case studies.

Finally, if you have any questions or comments or if you would like to contribute to the project in any way please contact Sara Spencer, Cost of the School Day Manager at [sara.spencer@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:sara.spencer@glasgow.gov.uk) or [sspencer@cpagscotland.org.uk](mailto:sspencer@cpagscotland.org.uk).

Have a look at coverage of Cost of the School Day in the Times Education Supplement Scotland (TESS) [here](#).



# RECENT POVERTY AND EDUCATION NEWS

**£1.5 million Access to Education Fund available for activities which reduce barriers to learning for pupils from low income households** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Mike Russell has announced a £1.5 million Access to Education Fund. Individual schools, school clusters or groups of schools can apply for funding of approximately £5000 per school for sustainable projects which address barriers to learning.

Guidance notes, application form and further information can be found on the Supporting Learners website. Colin Crawford, Area Education Officer, is the nominated Education Authority representative linking with Education Scotland. For advice or guidance on applications please contact Colin on 0141 287 4573 or at [colin.crawford@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:colin.crawford@glasgow.gov.uk).

**Young researchers find that young people think poverty shouldn't make a difference to young people's education and learning in Scotland - but it does.** Learning Lessons, research carried out by young people with support from Save the Children and SCCYP, reports on the views of nearly a thousand young people on how poverty affects children and young people's experiences of education and learning in Scotland. They found that poverty puts up barriers to learning that hold people back and sees them missing opportunities – at school, at home and in the community. Find out more [here](#).

**How can we close the attainment gap between pupils from high and low-income families in Scotland?** A recent JRF report presents evidence of the persistent and significant gap in attainment between children from the richest and poorest households in Scotland and outlines what teachers; schools, local and national government and other education providers can do to close this gap. Find out more [here](#).

**We know that school costs – but how much?** Research with over 2000 parents and carers, commissioned by Santander Credit Cards, has found that an average of £240 per child is spent preparing for the new school term and the cost of keeping a child at school is £50 per child per week in term time or £1,950 per child per school year. Read more about the costs [here](#).

**Young commissioners in England are leading a parliamentary inquiry into the hidden costs of school for children from low income households and the impact of these costs on their time at school.** Supported by the Children's Society in England, 15 young commissioners are leading an inquiry into the cost of school. The young commissioners led parliamentary evidence sessions in July which you can read about [here](#) and will be publishing their findings and recommendations in October.

One of the commissioners says, "...schooling is compulsory however often relatively expensive, and quite a high majority of families and children struggle. This issue is getting bigger and bigger and needs to be resolved."

