

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Poverty Proofing<sup>®</sup> 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 Burnt Tree Primary School to support the school to Poverty Proof<sup>®</sup> 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 on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 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 and send it in with your child or use the following link: <https://children-ne.org.uk/poverty-proofing/survey?uac=d63d92ae-4983-4526-b7a6-261aa1731d13>

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,

Emily Morgan  
Advisory Teacher for PSHE



Sandwell Council...working for you

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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:

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

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please explain:

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.....

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

Strongly ☐ Disagree ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐  
Disagree

Please explain:

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

Strongly ☐ Disagree ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree ☐ Agree ☐ Strongly Agree ☐  
Disagree

Please explain:

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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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