

Poverty Proofing and Participation

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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 Vernon Park Primary 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 will be 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 from Monday 22nd May until Wednesday 24th May 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=977219ab-2821-4b50-a6f2-8e5c9df8cefc>

I will also be in the playgrounds before and after school, so please do take this opportunity to come and speak to me in person.

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.

Please submit your responses by **Wednesday 24th May 2023 (Last day of audit)**.

If you have any further questions or queries then do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Nicki White

SMBC Primary SSIA
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1) How often does the school ask for money?

More than once a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month	Once a term	Once a year	Never
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2) What are you required to buy or pay for as part of your child's school day? Tick all that apply:

Clubs and activities	Trips	Charity fundraising
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Learning resources (e.g. stationery, revision guides, art materials etc)	Fun events e.g. discos, celebrations, Fairs	Food (other than main lunch)
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3) If there are other optional costs, please note them here:

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

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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5) I think the school gives enough notice when they ask for money.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
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6) Do you think school meals provide good value for money?

Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
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7) 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
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8) Does the school provide good support for pupils and families who are having financial problems?

Always		Usually		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
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9) If you needed support with financial problems, how comfortable would you feel approaching the school for help?

Very comfortable		Quite comfortable		Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable		Quite uncomfortable		Very uncomfortable	
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10) 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	
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11) 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	
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12) Does the school refer parents/carers to additional sources of support outside of school?

Yes		No		Don't know	
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13) Is the school a welcoming place for pupils and their families, however much money they have?

Always		Usually		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
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14) What more could the school do to support families on low incomes to afford the cost of school?

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