



Dear Parents,

What is the Cost of the School Day project?

Poverty affects more than one in four children in the UK today. We have been working across the UK to make sure that schools are set up so that children don't miss out and don't feel different or excluded because of how much money their family has.

We'll be supporting your child's school to reduce and remove financial barriers to learning and poverty-related stigma, ensuring every child can make the most of the school day regardless of their household income.

Poverty Proofing the School Day

We are currently working with Speyside High School, week commencing 20th September to support the school to 'poverty proof' the school day. This means helping the whole-school community to work together to identify cost barriers to learning and take actions to remove them. We are speaking to a number of pupils, teachers and school staff and would like to get your views as parents and 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 students access food during the school day.

Your answers to this survey will help us to understand whether school costs are causing problems for families and children and whether there is anything that we can do to help out. Your voice is really important and we want to hear from as many parents and carers as possible. We promise to listen to what's been said and take action where it's needed. You can access the survey through the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CoSDSecondaryKC>

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by Friday 24th September, if possible. All responses are anonymous and it is optional for you to provide your name and contact details. We will only use these if you have given us consent in the survey to follow-up with you at a later date to understand what's changed in your school or to conduct an interview with you about your current thoughts on school costs. We will be looking at the data collectively, rather than at individual responses. However, we may use quotes anonymously to help the school and others understand where difficulties lie. If you would prefer to speak to someone over the phone rather than fill out a survey, then please do give us a call on the number below or contact us on the email address provided. Alternatively, you can text 'Cost of the School Day' to the number below and we will be more than happy to give you a ring. If you complete the online survey and would like to talk with us on the phone to discuss the cost of the school day further, please leave your contact information at the end of the survey.

We will be working with the school to address the issues raised and we will keep you informed about the work we plan to do. We really look forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions!

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Campbell

Schools Practitioner, Cost of the School Day

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INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Below is a list of places you can go to if you would like any information on school entitlements, money advice, and uniform or food provision.



School Entitlements

For information about Free School Meals, School Clothing Grants and Education Maintenance Allowance in Moray please visit http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55486.html or email revenues@moray.gov.uk for more information.

Alternatively you can visit CPAG Scotland briefing for more information about financial entitlements including Best Start Grants <https://askcpag.org.uk/content/201969/families--coronavirus-and-benefits-in-scotland>

Money Advice Moray

Can support with claiming benefits, budgeting, and managing debt and benefit appeals.
http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1571.html or call 0300 1234563

Moray Food Plus

Provides a variety of services to those either experiencing or at risk of food insecurity. The organisation works alongside partners to reduce the amount of local food waste by taking surplus food and redistributing it amongst the community. <https://morayfoodplus.org.uk/>

Moray School Bank

Is a volunteer-led initiative which offers new school uniform and warm winter clothing to children living in financial hardship across Moray. Their aim is to improve the lives of children living in the local authority by helping to lighten the financial burden of families facing hardship. <https://www.morayschoolbank.org/>