

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 Belle Vue Girls Academy 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 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 week commencing Monday 10th July 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=c2ad20e4-0c0e-42dd-a2bf-1c8d66a26b22>

Please submit your responses by Friday 14th July

I will also be in the yard 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.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Gormley
Poverty Proofing[®] Co-ordinator
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1) Are any of your children entitled to Free School Meals (when not free for all pupils after Year 2)?

Yes No

2) How often does the school ask for money?

Weekly Monthly Half Termly Termly Annually Never

3) 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)

4) If there are other optional costs, please note them here:

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

Yes No

Please explain:

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6) 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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7) 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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8) Do you think school meals provide good value for money?

Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never

9) 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):

10) 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

11) Does the school provide good support for pupils and families who are having financial problems?

Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never

12) 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

13) 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

14) 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

15) Does the school refer parents/carers to additional sources of support outside of school?

Yes No Don't Know

16) Is the school a welcoming place for pupils and their families, however much money they have?

Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never

17) What more could the school do to support families on low incomes to afford the cost of school?

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

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