



# Addressing Poverty Through School Resources

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## Introduction

School resources, or the lack of them, can indicate a pupil's financial status and that a pupil is facing poverty (Child Poverty Action Group, 2022). Additionally, not having access to the right equipment can lead to sanctions from teachers. These factors or the impact that purchasing school resources has on household budgets can make pupils in poverty worry and lead to anxiety (Northern Health Science Alliance, 2023). This is why we must remove school resources as a barrier to pupils' educational experience.

In the Poverty Proofing© the School Day Bradford sample by Children North East, they raised several points that need further work within this area.


In 61% of schools, there were barriers surrounding **drinking water** - *'We get told no, wait 'til break time if we want a drink but **if you have a water bottle you can drink at any time.**' (pupil)*

In 23% of schools, allow students to bring in their **own pencil case** - *'In some classes you can bring in your pencil cases and it can be a bit of a **competition to see who has the best one.**' (pupil)*

In 15% of schools they had **'show and tell'** - *'**People laughed at me.**' (pupil)*

Use this document to **consider the supply and use of resources with an income inequality lens.**

## Questions To Ask Your School

	Question	Page
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the support and provision of resources to pupils <b>non-stigmatising</b> and <b>unlikely to single them out</b>?</li> <li>Are the actions you take around resources <b>reducing costs and financial pressures for all families</b>?</li> <li>Are you <b>consistently thinking about affordability</b> and inclusion regarding resources pupils require?</li> </ul>	3



## Look At All Resources Used Across The School Day

### What Citizens Say



*'In some classes you can bring in your pencil cases and it can be a bit of a competition to see who has the best one.'* (pupil)

*'The cups are unhygienic.' 'We're only allowed some water if we're really, really thirsty and then you have to use your hands.'* (pupil)

*'If you don't have any (sun cream) at home then you just get burnt.'* (pupil)

### What Your School Can Do?

#### Barriers

#### Guidance

Some pupils bring in **equipment from home**.

- Ensure a **consistent approach** when pupils occasionally bring in things from home.
- Encourage all pupils to use the **stationery that the school provide**.

'It **(show and tell) makes you feel really embarrassed** when you haven't been anywhere or got anything to talk about.' (pupil)

- **Discourages activities requiring pupils to bring in home items**, like Show and Tell.
- Instead, **ask different questions** such as 'one thing that made you happy this week' or 'show a piece of work you've been proud of this week'.

**Pupils have to ask for resources** for homework when making models, etc.

- **Provide all students access to materials** in the class where any child can discreetly access them.

**Pupils without a water bottle are not allowed water during lessons.**

- **Provide water bottles** for all pupils that are kept in school.
- Keep a **bank of water bottles that can be loaned out**.

Pupils **feel excluded** from friendship groups because they **do not have trading cards or toys** to play games at lunch/break.

- **Do not allow pupils to bring in toys or games from home**.
- Have a **range of resources for children to use at break times**.



## Barriers

Pupils could be worried about going outside because they **do not have the right clothing**.

Year 6 pupils have to or are encouraged to **Purchase revision guides**.

Pupils are required to **bring in sun cream from home** when the weather is warm.

**Some pupils cannot access technology or Wi-Fi at home to complete homework.**

Pupils cannot join in cooking activities as they **do not have enough food to bring from home**.

## Guidance

- **Provided all pupils with a waterproof coat.**
- **Purchase** or ask for waterproofs to be **donated** from shops or families when they grow out of them.
- Consider providing **free resources for revision**.
- Look at **subsidising the costs** of revision guides for all children.
- Could the school purchase revision guides that can be **loaned out** to pupils each year.
- Could **each class have a bottle** for pupils to put on themselves?
- Or should school sun cream be **left out in front of each class** every morning for parents and pupils to use?
- Schools could get families to **sign a permission form** at the start of the year.
- Understand how many families don't have access to technology.
- Access free device from the [Good Things Foundation](#).
- **Contact the Bradford Digital Inclusion officer** to learn about the available support.
- **Supply all food and equipment needed** for any cooking lessons.
- **Use surplus food** in cooking lessons.
- Access surplus food by contacting your local [food bank](#) or accessing [Aldi Neighbourly](#).

## Case Study

Bradford School



School has a huge **range of equipment that children can access for trips and residentials**, for children who don't have their own. There is no expectation at all that families need to buy special equipment or clothing for residentials: *'Whatever you don't have, school has it.'* (pupil)



## Appendix

### Links Referenced

<b>Tackling The Digital Divide</b>	<a href="https://mylivingwell.co.uk/schools/reducing-classroom-inequalities/tackling-the-digital-divide/">https://mylivingwell.co.uk/schools/reducing-classroom-inequalities/tackling-the-digital-divide/</a>
<b>Good Things Foundation</b>	<a href="https://network.goodthingsfoundation.org/resources">https://network.goodthingsfoundation.org/resources</a>
<b>Bradford Council Digital Inclusion Officer</b>	<a href="mailto:ayisha.hameed@bradford.gov.uk">ayisha.hameed@bradford.gov.uk</a>
<b>Bradford Food Banks</b>	<a href="https://bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/">https://bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/</a>
<b>Aldi Neighbourly</b>	<a href="https://www.aldi.co.uk/corporate/partnerships/neighbourly">https://www.aldi.co.uk/corporate/partnerships/neighbourly</a>

### References

Child Poverty Action Group. 2022. The cost of the school day in England: Pupils' Perspective. Available at: <https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/The%20Cost%20of%20the%20School%20Day%20in%20England-%20Pupils%27%20Perspectives.pdf>.

Northern Health Science Alliance. 2023. Child Poverty and the Cost of Living Crisis: A report prepared for the APPG Child of the North. Available at: <https://www.healthequitynorth.co.uk/app/uploads/2023/04/COTN-APPG.pdf>



If you have any feedback on this document or good practice that your school is doing, **we would love to hear from you.**

Please email [schools@mylivingwell.co.uk](mailto:schools@mylivingwell.co.uk).

