



Bowerham Primary and Nursery School

Tackling Disadvantage and Poverty Proofing



Positional Statement

October 2022

Child poverty facts and figures - <https://cpag.org.uk/>

- 3.9 million children live in poverty in the UK
- 46% of children from black and minority ethnic groups live in poverty
- 75% of children growing up in poverty live in working families
- 450,000 fewer children would live in poverty if child benefit was increased by £10 a week

What is Poverty Proofing the school day?

We live in a time where there are real concerns about the impact of poverty and inequality in our society and more importantly our local community. In one of the richest countries in the world, the number of children living in poverty is predicted to hit 5.2million by 2022.

At Bowerham we are committed to ensuring that every child has equal access to all the opportunities available to them. Poverty proofing the school day is built on the following principles;

All activity and planned activity in school should not identify, exclude, treat differently or make assumptions about those children whose household income or resources are lower than others.

Poverty proofing the School Day aims to support our school to identify and overcome the barriers to learning faced by children and young people from families with fewer financial resources. Below you will find what Bowerham already does or intends to start; we need our families and community to give further recommendations on how else we can improve.

The school day

- The School dining room is open from 8.00am providing breakfast at a low price (cost only). KS 2 pupils can come on their own and KS 1 pupils need to be accompanied by an adult.
- School opens at 8.30am for all children to go straight to their classrooms.
- School provides a casual afterschool club (in partnership with Bowerham Kids Club) for all parents to use, to give parents flexibility.
- School in partnership with Bowerham Kids cub provides holiday care provision, more recently with the HAF project.
- School has an experienced pastoral team that works hard to build relationships up with all families in need of support. School has capacity to offer direct support for families and children as well as to signpost support in the local community. This is communicated through Parent App, Facebook, Instagram and on our website.
<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

School Clothing

- School ensures that uniform is easily accessible, plain with no logos to prevent any competition. As it is leisure wear it is readily available all year round. As such, it is also durable and adaptable for school life thus preventing extra costs of ruined uniform and shoes.
- The school branded item is the sweatshirt however, we do have Bowerham badges to sew on to plain red sweatshirts.
- We have preloved items available all year round with an honesty box so parents can pay what they can afford or nothing- these are placed in different areas around school tso they are easily accessible and to also avoid parents feeling uncomfortable.
- We provide uniform for all families that cannot afford it or do not have access to public funds.
- School provides sanitary products for children that need them.

Food and snacks

- School provides support for parents in completing the FSM application. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>
- Office staff regularly support families who may need assistance in completing forms.
- Free fruit/snacks/toast is available to all children in nursery/reception/KS1.
- School provides food/water bottles or snack for any child that complains of being hungry.
- Children in Ks2 can order snack which is given out at playtime (this is also cost only).
- School regularly makes referrals to The Foodbank for families in need.

In the classroom

- School provides all the stationary and other essentials in the classroom; children are not allowed to bring in their own pencil cases, equipment etc.
- When children celebrate a marble day, we ensure that anything brought from home is minimal. We never ask them to bring in electrical items.
- Every child is provided with a communication diary.

Out of school learning

- School provides ICT equipment for those children who do have access to this at home.
- School provides any equipment that a child may need for a project or homework if they do not have access to this.
- School provides access to an online reading platform to enable children to enjoy reading a variety of books.

Charity, fundraising & community

- We keep non-uniform days down to a minimum, donations for this are always something you can find in a cupboard or perhaps an unwanted gift.
- Children are asked not to bring sweets /treats /cakes to celebrate birthdays as this can lead to peer pressure.
- Christmas party day is alongside Christmas dinner day to avoid an extra cost.
- School provide a present room so children can buy their parents a present for Christmas at the cost of £1.
- Secret Santa for all children, where each child buys another child in their class a gift costing a nominal sum to discourage children giving further gifts at school.
- All children are given a poppy, a donation is asked for to ensure all children are treated the same; this then avoids the competition for extras.
- Summer Fair provides an accessible experience for all families at cost.
- No charges for school productions throughout the year other than the summer fair.
- Disco charge is kept to a low cost and includes a drink and hotdog /vegdog for all children.
- Termly family events run by staff with a nominal charge for food.

School trips

- Trips and residential costs are paid for all children PPG/FSM.
- Where a trip has a cost, we ask for a donation. Any shortfall is met by the school but if insufficient funds are received the trip may be cancelled. School fundraising goes to subsidise school trips.
- School trips, apart from the residential trips, have a cap of £23 due to the current economic situation. All trips are reviewed to ensure that the impact on learning for the children is high enough to justify the cost.
- All year groups will have an overview of all trips for the year, this will go on parent app as a reducing balance so parents can pay a little off as and when families can afford.
- Year 5 do not go on a trip that costs money as they are paying for their year 6 residential to France. Parents are given a year to pay this and longer if needed.

Pay it forward

- We are setting up a pay it forward scheme. Families or community members who have the funds and wish to do so can give money to support families in need towards trips etc. To do this people can make a donation to the School bank account shown below.
- Donations can either be anonymous or referenced to a particular trip or activity.

BOWERHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sort Code – 30-14-60

Account no - 00087301

This is what we currently do. We intend to discuss this further with our children, staff, governors and of course you as parents and members of our local community. Below is a table, please feel free to write down your thoughts and recommendations. Please return to school with your child or to the school office.

Thank you in anticipation,

Jo Banks and all the Bowerham family

Barrier	Comment	Recommendation
Additional Comments		

Name _____

Date _____