

**THE COST OF
THE SCHOOL DAY**

**CALENDAR
2022/23**



**CHILD
POVERTY
ACTION
GROUP**

ABOUT THIS CALENDAR



Uniforms, trips, school lunches, PE kits, pencils and pens, dress down days and other school costs can be difficult to afford for low-income families. When children and young people can't take part in opportunities because of cost, they miss out and feel excluded, and it is harder for them to learn, achieve and be happy at school.

The Cost of the School Day calendar aims to help schools identify possible cost barriers during the academic year and think about some alternatives to make sure all children and young people can fully participate in education. Throughout the calendar, we've included ideas and good practice examples from schools across England, Scotland and Wales who have taken part in the Cost of the School Day project.

Importantly, we know that schools can have the most impact by listening to children. To find out more about investigating the school day from the perspective of children and young people, please contact Child Poverty Action Group on UKCosd@cpag.org.uk or Children North East on info@povertyproofing.co.uk.

If you find this calendar useful, you might also benefit from our other free resources. Visit cpag.org.uk/school-resources.

About us

The Cost of the School Day project aims to reduce the financial barriers that prevent pupils from fully participating in the school day. Our approach involves working with whole-school communities (pupils, parents, teachers and staff) to identify and reduce cost barriers faced by pupils from low-income backgrounds. cpag.org.uk/cosd









Child Poverty Action Group works on behalf of the more than one in four children in the UK growing up in poverty. It doesn't have to be like this. We use our understanding of what causes poverty and the impact it has on children's lives to campaign for policies that will prevent and solve poverty – for good. We provide training, advice and information to make sure hard-up families get the financial support they need. We also carry out high-profile legal work to establish and protect families' rights. Registered charity numbers: 294841 and SC039339

Children North East exists because growing up can be hard. We create life-changing differences for babies, children and young people in their families, schools and communities. We offer support at those times when a little help can make a big difference for a child and their future. Ultimately, our purpose is that all North East babies, children and young people grow up to be healthy and happy, regardless of background or family circumstance. Charity number: 222041





THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Ideas from other schools - A primary school's approach to school clubs:

All pupils at the school take part in skills academy every Friday afternoon. Skills academy provides pupils with a wide variety of additional opportunities for free, including yoga, animation, current affairs, Tai Chi and photography. All the necessary equipment and resources are provided by the school and pupils choose the sessions they attend which focus on learning new skills in one of six key areas: creative, physical, innovative, knowledge, partnership or enterprise.

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Homework Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Homework that requires a suitable place to work, resources from home or digital access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ What resources are required for pupils to complete their homework and what support is available for those who may not have these resources at home? Should resources be required to carry out homework tasks or could tasks be set that don't require resources to ensure everyone can part?■ Are there opportunities for pupils to complete their homework in school if they face barriers at home?
 School Dinners Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Children able to identify those who are eligible for FSMs■ Children don't take up their free school meal entitlement■ Children miss out on food because the options available to pupils do not always account for their preferences, dietary requirements or cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Can students at your school identify which of their peers are in receipt of free school meals?■ What do pupils think of their school lunch experience?■ How do you collect insight on what pupils think of lunchtime at your school?■ Do pupils on free school meals have the same school food options as their peers including at break times?■ Do all pupils take up their free school meal entitlement?■ Do all pupils have access to the same food choices and portion sizes regardless of whether they are on FSM or not?
 Celebrations Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cost of craft projects■ Cost of bringing in specific items from home like food or clothing (e.g. for birthdays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ While celebrating different cultural and religious events can be hugely valuable, are you ensuring that this is accessible to all pupils and doesn't place additional financial strain on families?■ Are there ways for your school to celebrate pupils' birthdays at no cost to families?
 Period Products Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pupils missing school days due to not being able to afford sanitary products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Are free period products available to pupils and in a location where they can access them without needing to ask a member of staff?
 Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Equipment needed for exams including stationery and calculators■ Cost of revision guides and revision materials■ Pupils feeling under pressure in relation to their exams■ Pupils missing breakfast before the tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ What do students need for exams and what support is available?■ How is support advertised to students and families?■ How can you check in with pupils during this week? What will you look out for to identify any pupils who are finding this time more challenging?■ How can your school provide all pupils with something to eat before their exams to make sure those who have missed breakfast are not hungry during the tests?
 Music Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cost of instrument or vocal tuition■ Instrument to practice at home■ Suitable space to practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ What support is available for instrument tuition?■ How is support communicated to students and families?■ When and how can students make use of practice space in school?
 School Census Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Families missing out on free school meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ How often are families reminded about free school meals?■ Do you know which students are not taking up their free school meal entitlement?■ How are families supported with applying for free school meals?
 Art / Textiles Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cost of additional resources or materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Do students need any additional materials for arts exams? What materials are available in school?

AUGUST 2022

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Holiday Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Families unaware of what holiday provision is available to them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Are you giving families lots of notice about what holiday provision is available at the school or locally, and promoting this regularly? When planning holiday activities, are you considering how to make them available to as many families as possible, not just those eligible for free school meals?
 Return to School (Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Families unaware of financial entitlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Are you supporting students and families to access their financial entitlements? This can include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), a weekly payment of £30 to help a student in education beyond the school leaving age of 16. mygov.scot/emaSchool clothing grant, which is normally a cash grant paid to a family's bank account to help with the cost of school clothing and shoes. mygov.scot/clothing-grantsFree school meals. mygov.scot/school-meals
 Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expense of compulsory school uniformNo pre-loved uniform availableSanctions in place for pupils who do not bring their PE kit to school or do not have the correct uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What pre-loved uniform provision is available at your school and how do students and families access it?Is uniform affordable? How easy is it for families to purchase or order?What support can you offer if students do not have their PE kit or uniform?For schools in England: are you compliant with the statutory guidance on uniform? Our resource may help: cpag.org.uk/affordable-school-uniforms-guide.
 Trips, Events and Clubs Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Families not given enough notice when trips, extra-curricular activities and fundraising events are organisedAfter-school clubs and trips cost money to attend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What do you have planned for the academic year and how much will families be asked to contribute? How can you ensure that families have enough time to pay for school activities and events?How are you going to communicate with families about school costs and any support that is available?

Ideas from other schools – A primary school's approach to school logos on uniforms:

Pupils at the school are not required to wear jumpers and polo shirts that have the school logo on. Many pupils wear unbranded school clothing and there is no stigma attached to having a uniform without a logo. This means that families are able to purchase unbranded items from a range of different suppliers, which is cheaper than purchasing branded items. If families do wish for their child to wear branded uniform, the school stocks items that can be purchased by families at cost price.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Summer bank holiday (Scotland)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Summer bank holiday (England and Wales)	30	31				

 School event

 Holiday

 Charity

 Theme day or week

 Cultural or religious event

 GB-wide event






 Scottish event

 Welsh event

 English event

 Thinking point

SEPTEMBER 2022

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Return to School (England and Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils asked questions such as 'Where did you go on holiday?', 'What did you do during the holiday?' or 'write a diary entry about what you did over the summer' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What questions and activities can you ask to learn more about children that aren't focused on their family and home experiences?
 Roald Dahl Day 13 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dressing up as Roald Dahl characters Needing to purchase a book to write a book review Creating book scenes in boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is Roald Dahl Day celebrated in your school? What resources are required and is there a cost associated? How can activities and celebrations for Roald Dahl day be linked to and incorporated into your curriculum?
 Jeans for Genes Day 19 to 25 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monetary donation Being asked to wear jeans to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is attendance on this date? Do all children take part? In what ways can children who do not have suitable clothing be involved in this day? Could the focus be on raising awareness of the cause instead of donations?
 MacMillan Coffee Morning 30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cakes and bakes brought in from home Cakes and bakes sold in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you involve all children and families in this event, including those who may not be able to contribute a cake or make a donation?
 Options Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific subject resource and equipment cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What information do you give to students and families to help them decide on course options? When are families made aware of any subject costs or equipment that is needed? Does your school monitor participation in specific subjects to determine whether costs may be a barrier to certain courses?

Ideas from other schools – A secondary school's approach to school transport:

The school has two minibuses that are used to support students who live further away from school or who cannot afford transport costs to travel between school and home. The minibuses are free of charge: "Children who live more than one bus journey away can go on the school minibus at no extra cost" (staff member). The school also makes financial support available for students who are unable to pay for a bus pass.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13  Roald Dahl Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	28	30  MacMillan: World's Biggest Coffee Morning		



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event








English event



Thinking point

OCTOBER 2022

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Challenge Poverty Week 3 – 9 October (Scotland) 17 – 23 October (England & Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific barriers. For more information: - England and Wales: challengepoverty.co.uk - Scotland: challengepoverty.net - London: londonchallengepovertyweek.org.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could you use this opportunity to tackle attitudes and assumptions about poverty?
 Harvest Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A requirement to bring in food bank donations Monetary donations Pupils being able to identify who has donated and how much 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you collect donations so that pupils are not able to identify who has and has not made a contribution?
 Show Racism the Red Card's Wear Red Day 21 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing red clothes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that the focus is on anti-racism and the important issues that the charity tackles, rather than on dressing up? Are there alternatives to wearing red clothes, such as providing red ribbons or badges for all pupils to wear?
 Diwali 24 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children encouraged to dress up in traditional costume for a Diwali party Diwali-themed homework requiring extra resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could any Diwali activities requiring resources be done at school, with resources provided in class? If you're having a Diwali party, could the focus be on learning dances and stories rather than wearing traditional costumes?
 Halloween 31 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry fee to school Halloween disco Additional spending money for disco Costumes for disco or non-uniform day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you use school resources for celebrations so that pupils don't have to bring or wear items from home to take part? How much will it cost families to attend the disco and how can you reduce these costs?

Ideas from other schools – Monitoring non-uniform days:

One school informally monitored attendance during non-uniform days and identified several pupils, mainly pupils with English as an additional language, who were not attending school on these days. They have since changed these days to 'dress as you please'. Pupils said this was good as they could "wear school trousers and any home top they liked" (Pupil, age 9). Senior management noted that since introducing this, attendance has improved.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21  Wear Red Day	22	23
24  Diwali	25	26	27	28	29	30
31  Halloween						



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event








English event



Thinking point

NOVEMBER 2022

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Bonfire Night 5 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry fee to school bonfire and fireworks display Additional spending money for drinks, food, glow sticks and sparklers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the total cost for families to attend this event and how can the costs be reduced? Are there any additional costs families will face when they attend e.g. drinks or sparklers? Can these be communicated when the event is advertised? Can any costs be covered by donations rather than an entry fee?
 Remembrance Day 11 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merchandise sold at school on behalf of charity e.g. poppies, wrist bands, pin badges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that all children have the opportunity to take home a piece of merchandise even if they cannot donate? Does money need to be collected in school or could online fundraising be utilised? Could the focus be on raising awareness of the cause instead of donations?
 BBC Children in Need 18 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having to wear something with spots, a Pudsey eye patch or Children in Need accessories Merchandise sold at school (e.g. Pudsey eye patches, deely boppers, wrist bands, pin badges) Bake sales 	
 Anti-Bullying Week 14 – 18 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of understanding of what bullying is Bullying taking place based on material possessions Pupils not knowing what to do if they are being bullied and who they can talk to about it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some schools use anti-bullying week to raise awareness around income-related bullying, and explore the impact that poverty has on children and families. How do you communicate your bullying policy with pupils and families? How often is it shared?
 St Andrew's Day 30 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils asked to wear traditional national attire (kilt or something tartan) Paying money for a non-uniform / dress-up day Paid entry to school ceilidhs or dances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it necessary to ask pupils to wear traditional attire to celebrate this event? Could celebrations and ceilidh dances be scheduled during the school day so that all children can take part? Could dress-up days and after-school events be free or donation-based?

Ideas from other schools - An alternative way to mark Remembrance day:

One school recently changed their approach to charity days and fundraising. There was no expectation to buy poppies; instead, pupils wrote poems and made crosses with poppies, with everything provided by the school. When collecting donations for charity days, money is handed in discreetly in envelopes. "We tweaked it a little bit, put their donation into an envelope, we are not stating it has to be a pound, just a donation, you don't even need to bring a donation, everyone is going to join in regardless." (Teacher)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5  Bonfire Night	6
7	8	9	10	11  Royal British Legion: Remembrance Day	12	13
14  Anti-Bullying Week	15	16	17	18  BBC Children in Need	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30  St Andrew's Day				



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event









English event



Thinking point

DECEMBER 2022

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Gift Giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils and staff exchanging Christmas gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If children and families wish to show their appreciation to school staff, how can this be facilitated without gift giving?
 School Photographs: Individual and sibling photographs for Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographs are taken of every pupil, even if families have no intention of purchasing them Pupils can identify who has and has not purchased photographs because of the way they are given out in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you ensure that attention is not drawn to children and families who do not purchase school photographs? Are there resources in school that could be used to ensure that all children have a school photograph?
 Christmas Fayre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry fee Expense of stalls, games or grotto Food and refreshment costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What costs are associated with attending the fayre and are there any free activities? Do you know which families miss out on these events and the reasons why?
 Christmas Jumper Day 9 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being required to wear a Christmas jumper Monetary donation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Might children in your school feel pressured, isolated or stigmatised if they don't have an appropriate jumper and are there alternative ways of marking this day? How will you ensure that children know about the work Save the Children does?
 Christmas Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families asked to provide costumes and props Tickets for sale for the event Hidden cost of refreshments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the total costs for families related to the school performance including costumes and props? How can these costs be reduced or subsidised so that all families are able to attend? Can any costs be covered by donations rather than having an entry fee?
 Christmas Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children asked to contribute food and drink to share Party clothes worn in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can be utilised in school for Christmas parties rather than asking children to bring in items from home? Can the school catering team support the provision of party food? In a busy month, with lots of additional costs, how much notice are families given?

Ideas from other schools – A primary school's inclusive Christmas celebrations:

Pupils enjoy the various ways Christmas is celebrated at school, including a visit from Santa who distributes a book to everyone at no cost to pupils, courtesy of the PTA. "Santa gives you a book – everyone gets one and it's nice to have a present" (Pupil). Pupils also make Christmas cards in their lessons using materials provided by the school, ensuring that everyone receives a card at no cost to families.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9  Christmas Jumper Day	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day	27 Bank holiday (Christmas day substitute)	28	29	30	31	



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event






English event



Thinking point

JANUARY 2023

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 End of Christmas holidays and return to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils asked questions about their home experiences, including what they got for Christmas and what they did 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you ask children questions that aren't focused on presents and their home experiences during the holidays?
 UCAS Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of submitting application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you identified which students may find the application charge more difficult? Are students given enough notice about the application cost?
 Burns Night 25 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils asked to wear traditional national attire (kilt or something tartan) and attend traditional haggis suppers Families asked to pay to attend a Burns performance of song and poetry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instead of asking pupils to wear traditional attire, could you celebrate Burns night by focusing on learning songs and poetry? How can you ensure that all families are able to take part? Are there ways of reducing costs by connecting with other local businesses and organisations?

Ideas from other schools - A primary school's food-based celebrations:

The school celebrates special events like Chinese New Year by giving pupils the opportunity to try different cuisines. Pupils are not asked to bring in a dish from home – instead, the school works with the central catering team “to design a Spanish menu or a menu to celebrate Chinese New Year or Burns” (staff member) and this is served as part of pupils’ regular school lunches. “Pupils are able to try a variety of new dishes with no additional pressure placed on FSM families and those that receive a universal free school meal as this experience is included in their current allowance” (staff member).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Bank holiday (New year's day substitute)	3 Bank holiday (Scotland) (2nd January substitute)	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22  Chinese New Year
23	24	25  Burns Night	26	27	28	29
30	31					



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event








English event



Thinking point

FEBRUARY 2023

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 LGBTQ+ History Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merchandise available to be purchased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you mark this awareness month in school and ensure that all students are able to participate? What resources do you have in school that students can use to make their own items to show their support (e.g. rainbow badges)?
 World Cancer Day 4 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cakes and bakes being brought in from home Cakes and bakes being sold in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could the focus of this day and activities in school be centred on awareness raising rather than fundraising? Could families be directed to online donation points rather than bringing money in to school?
 Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Language Music Day) 10 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home learning that requires online access can be difficult for pupils who don't have suitable devices or connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What offline activities can you do in school for this date that all children can take part in?
 Fairtrade Fortnight 20 February to 5 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merchandise sold in school Children setting up their own enterprise projects including buying products from each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can your pupils develop their entrepreneurial skills without asking other children and families for money? Are there other outlets or organisations that pupils can engage with if they are selling products? Can you run any free events or taster sessions that all children can take part in? Are there any ways of including the catering team in this event so that all pupils who usually have school lunch can take part in linked activities?
 Post-16 Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of transport for college or sixth form interviews Internet access to complete online applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the process for students applying to post-16 providers and are there any costs? How does your school support students to complete post-16 applications?

Ideas from other schools - A primary school's inclusive trips:

The school has an events calendar, which allows families to budget as they know when the trips are during the school year. This is appreciated by parents: "Very helpful and understanding with plenty of notice" (parent). The school allows families to pay for trips in instalments, which was recognised as particularly helpful by families. The headteacher also explained how everyone is included in trips: "if they can't afford to pay we will often pay and parents are grateful and no child will ever miss out on our trips."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4  World Cancer Day	5
6	7	8	9	10  Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Language Music Day)	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20  Fairtrade Fortnight	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event









English event








Thinking point

MARCH 2023

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 St. David's Day 1 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of purchasing national dress or rugby shirts Making Welsh food at home and bringing it to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could the focus be on raising awareness of the special day and what it means to be Welsh, rather than on dressing up? What resources can you provide so all pupils in school can take part in activities?
 World Book Day 2 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children asked to dress up in themed costumes Bringing in books from home Taking photographs of themselves reading in unusual places to be displayed in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a busy month with lots of charity days, which will be fundraising days and which will be awareness-raising days? How can you mark this date without asking children to bring in things from home? What activities can you organise that will be a part of the school day for all children?
 Red Nose Day TBC March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monetary donation Red noses and other merchandise sold in schools Non-uniform day or other fundraising events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will donations be discreetly collected so that attention is not drawn to any pupils who do not make a contribution? What activities for this date can you organise that all children can take part in? How will you ensure that pupils know about the work that Comic Relief does?
 Mother's Day 19 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events held with entry fees Contributions towards the cost of materials for gift and card making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can you ensure that all children get the opportunity to take home something for this date? Are there any ways of making events free or reduced price so that all families are able to attend? Who should families speak to at your school if cost is a barrier to them attending and how do you communicate this?
 Ramadan Around 22 March to 21 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fasting students not getting their free school meal entitlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you ensuring eligible pupils still get their free school meal entitlement in a way that fits in with their religious practices? Do you know how much unspent free school meal money there is and how it is used?
 Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness) 26 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monetary donation Wearing of non-uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What school arts and craft resources can you make use of to ensure that all children are able to take part? Do you know if any pupils avoid school on days where they wear non-uniform or are asked for donations?





Ideas from other schools – A secondary school's cost-free approach to arts and technology:

Students use various music rooms at lunchtime to practice instruments and can borrow musical equipment to practice for exams at home. Drama rehearsals also take place at lunchtime, and all costumes are provided by the school. Students who take photography are given access to cameras "and the teacher shows us how we can use our camera on our phones to take better pictures" (student). Students are set art homework that is achievable and are provided with all necessary art equipment in class. They can also borrow resources to complete work at home.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1  St. David's Day	2  World Book Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19  Mother's Day
20	21	22  Start of Ramadan	23	24	25	26  Epilepsy Awareness Day
27	28	29	30	31		

									
School event	Holiday	Charity	Theme day or week	Cultural or religious event	GB-wide event	Scottish event	Welsh event	English event	Thinking point

APRIL 2023

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Easter Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter egg hunts and Easter Fayres with entry fee Easter parade with homemade bonnets and baskets Easter egg decorating and Easter scene creating Easter colouring competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could your school make sure Easter activities are accessible to all students by providing the resources they will need to take part? How can you involve families in Easter activities?
 Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of transport Cost of uniform, clothing or equipment Missing out on free school meals when out of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will free schools meals be provided to students while they are on work experience placements? What do students need for work experience and how much will this cost? What expectations do you as a school have for employers covering costs associated with their work placement?
 Enterprise Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils making money by selling items or providing a service to other pupils and their parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there ways of involving the wider community in the enterprise project rather than it taking place exclusively in school? Who else within your local community would be interested in purchasing products made by your students?
 Eid al-Fitr Around 22 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children asked to bring in food and drinks to share with their friends for a Eid party Parents bringing in home-cooked dishes for a Eid party 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eid al-Fitr, the biggest Muslim festival of the year, marks the end of the month of Ramadan, and one of the ways it is celebrated is by spending time together and sharing food. Are you ensuring your communications with children and parents about Eid state that any such contributions are entirely voluntary? If food is being shared at school, can all donations be dropped off at a central location so pupils cannot identify who has and who has not contributed?

Ideas from other schools – Giving pupils full control of their free school meals allowance:

Students who are eligible for free school meals can spend their allowance at any time throughout the school day on a full range of meals and snacks, enabling students to make their own choices about what and when they want to eat. Any unspent money from students' daily allowance is kept on their account so it can be used another day. "If there's a time I don't spend it, then it's always there" (Year 11 student). When a student's account has been topped up with money from home, their FSM allowance is always used first so that cost to the family is kept to a minimum and used as a last option.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Good Friday bank holiday	8	9 Easter Sunday
10 Easter Monday bank holiday (England and Wales)	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Eid al Fitr	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



School event



Holiday



Charity



Theme day or week



Cultural or religious event



GB-wide event



Scottish event



Welsh event






English event



Thinking point

MAY 2023





Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Children's Book Week No set dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Books and bookmarks for sale in school Book fairs visited by classes during the school day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any national or local partners you can work with to provide families with free or reduced price books? Might parents and children feel under pressure to attend and purchase something from the book fair? How can this pressure be reduced?
 Diwrnod Seren a Sbarc (Seren and Sbarc Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-uniform day Dressing up as superheroes Dressing in traditional Welsh colours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what ways can you raise awareness of the Siarter Iaith (Welsh Charter) and promote a strong Welsh ethos without a cost for families? Are there school arts and crafts resources you can use to ensure that all children are able to take part in the occasion, rather than focusing on dressing up?
 Urdd Eisteddfod Performances 29 May to 3 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance outfit Accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you communicated to families what support may be available from school, including for travel? Does your school monitor the attendance at this performance to determine to what extent costs may be a barrier? Can pupils get involved in prop design and construction in school?

Ideas from other schools – A primary school's approach to pastoral support:

The school has a learning mentor who designs and delivers wellbeing clubs based on the needs of pupils. Pupils talked about a range of free clubs they can go to, including Tea and Talk, Mindfulness Club, Gardening Club and Cooking Club. Pupils like these clubs as they provide an opportunity to talk about their worries: "At break you could go to Tea and Talk and you could share your worries. Sometimes it's nice to talk to people about things" (Year 5 pupil); "There is Thursday after-school Mindfulness club... I was one of the first people to go to it... My favourite part was we had a folder and drawer and we put it away till next week. We had tea and hot chocolate and biscuits" (Year 5 pupil). These clubs are all run for free, which means all children are able to access vital wellbeing support and social opportunities.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Early May bank holiday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Spring bank holiday	30  Urdd Eisteddfod Performances	31				

JUNE 2023

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 Bike Week Usually in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children needing bikes of their own to take part	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Which local organisations can support with ensuring all children can take part?
 Father's Day 18 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Making gifts to take home in exchange for a monetary contributionEvents held in school with entry fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How can you ensure that all children get the opportunity to take something home?Are there any ways of making events free or reduced price so that all families are able to attend?Who should families speak to at your school if cost will be a barrier to them attending and how do you communicate this?
 End of year class photographs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cost of purchasing photographs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How can you ensure that attention is not drawn to children and families who do not purchase school photographs? Can the photos be distributed out of school hours to avoid pupils knowing who has and who has not purchased a photo?Are there resources in school which could be used to ensure that all children have a school photograph?
 Summer Fayre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Entry feeExpense of stalls / gamesFood and refreshment costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What costs are associated with attending the school fayre?Could you include some free activities?
 P7 Transition Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cost of going on the tripCost of outdoor clothingExpectation to have spending money	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Have families been given as much notice as possible with the option to pay in instalments?What is the total cost for a child to attend including clothing and spending money? How can this cost be reduced?How can the school help families who don't have appropriate outdoor clothing?
 End of year (Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">See July for end of year barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">See July for things to consider at the end of the year.
 Eid al-Adha Around 29 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children asked to bring in food and drinks to share with their friends for an Eid celebrationParents bringing in home cooked dishes for a Eid party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do your communications with children and parents about Eid celebrations state that any contributions such as food and sweets are entirely voluntary?

Ideas from other schools – A secondary school's inclusive prom celebration:

The school understands that the costs associated with the prom can be a barrier for poorer students. The school offers support to all students through 'Project Prom'. Sixth form students donate their dresses and suits to be reused by younger students. A large number of outfits get collected, and staff puts on an event where students can come and choose an outfit, with posters displayed around school to advertise this.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18  Father's Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29  Eid al-Adha	30		

 School event

 Holiday

 Charity

 Theme day or week

 Cultural or religious event

 GB-wide event






 Scottish event

 Welsh event

 English event

 Thinking point

JULY 2023

Event	Barriers highlighted by pupils and families	Things to consider
 End of year celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children asked to contribute food and drink to shareParty clothes worn in schoolCost of ticket (e.g. prom tickets)Cost of outfits, photographs, transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What can school provide for this event so that pupils do not need to bring in things from home?How can you mark and celebrate the end of year in a way that is inclusive of all students?Have you asked students what they would like from their end of year celebration, taking into account those who don't have much money?
 Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Buying team / house t-shirtsWearing team / house colours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What resources do you have available in school that could be used to demarcate different houses or teams?
 Leavers' Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cost of costumes and propsCost of ticketsCost of refreshments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What is the current cost for a family to attend this event and how could these costs be reduced? Could donations be adopted rather than a fixed ticket price?
 School Leavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Items available to purchase (leavers' hoodies, year books, photographs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What mementoes can you as a school provide for all children?Could the children make their own mementoes or mementoes for each other?
 Gift Giving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupils and staff exchanging end of year gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If children and families wish to show their appreciation to school staff, how can this be facilitated without gift giving? How can you model to children and families different ways to show appreciation and say thank you?

Ideas from other schools – A primary school’s free breakfast club that is open to all:

By running a free breakfast club that is offered to all pupils, the school helps to ensure that children are getting access to something to eat and a safe place to attend before school starts. The club currently has 50 places, and the school can fund more places if the need arises. The funding for the food is provided by Greggs. Even if children do not want breakfast, they are still welcome to use the club, as the school recognises that this provision is helpful to parents.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						