

Cost of the School Day

The Big Question

**THE COST OF
THE SCHOOL DAY**

For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators
Do luchd-ionnsachaidh na h-Alba, le luchd-foghlaim Alba

Cost of the School Day

Supporting CPAG Big Question findings and recommendations

- 240 000 children (24% of all children) remain locked in poverty in Scotland

(Scottish government [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2020-23, 21 March 2024](#), 2024)

- Children and young people's insights and creative solutions must be listened to and acted upon

Big Question



What was done?

5,394 children and young people. Sharing their thoughts on

- school trips
- food
- what helps them feel ready to learn
- what should change



[Report](#)



[film](#)

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Key Messages

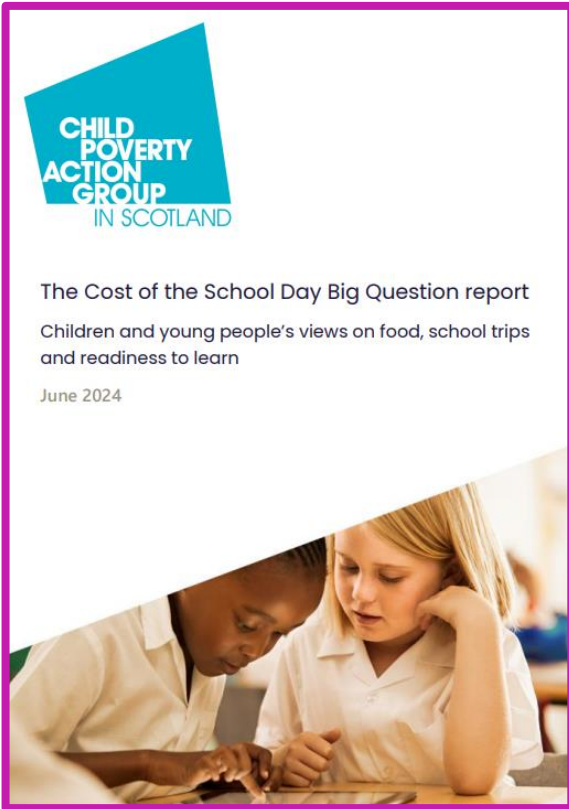
Responses from over 5000 young people.

Created to be used to help inform approaches to readiness to learn and identify ways to support children and families.

The report highlights that school costs matter, and which costs are most important.

It provides an opportunity to consider and review cost pressures, taking into account

- what is consistently in place
- where are the gaps
- what support is needed (short/medium/long term)



Key Messages

Poverty is a huge issue which schools/individual teachers cannot be expected to solve it alone.

Considerations from our children and young people

- resource provision
- support for trips/experiences
- access to food
- non-stigmatising/dignified approaches
- structure of school day
- classroom practice – a culture of kindness and respect
- physical environment
- highlighting financial entitlements and available support

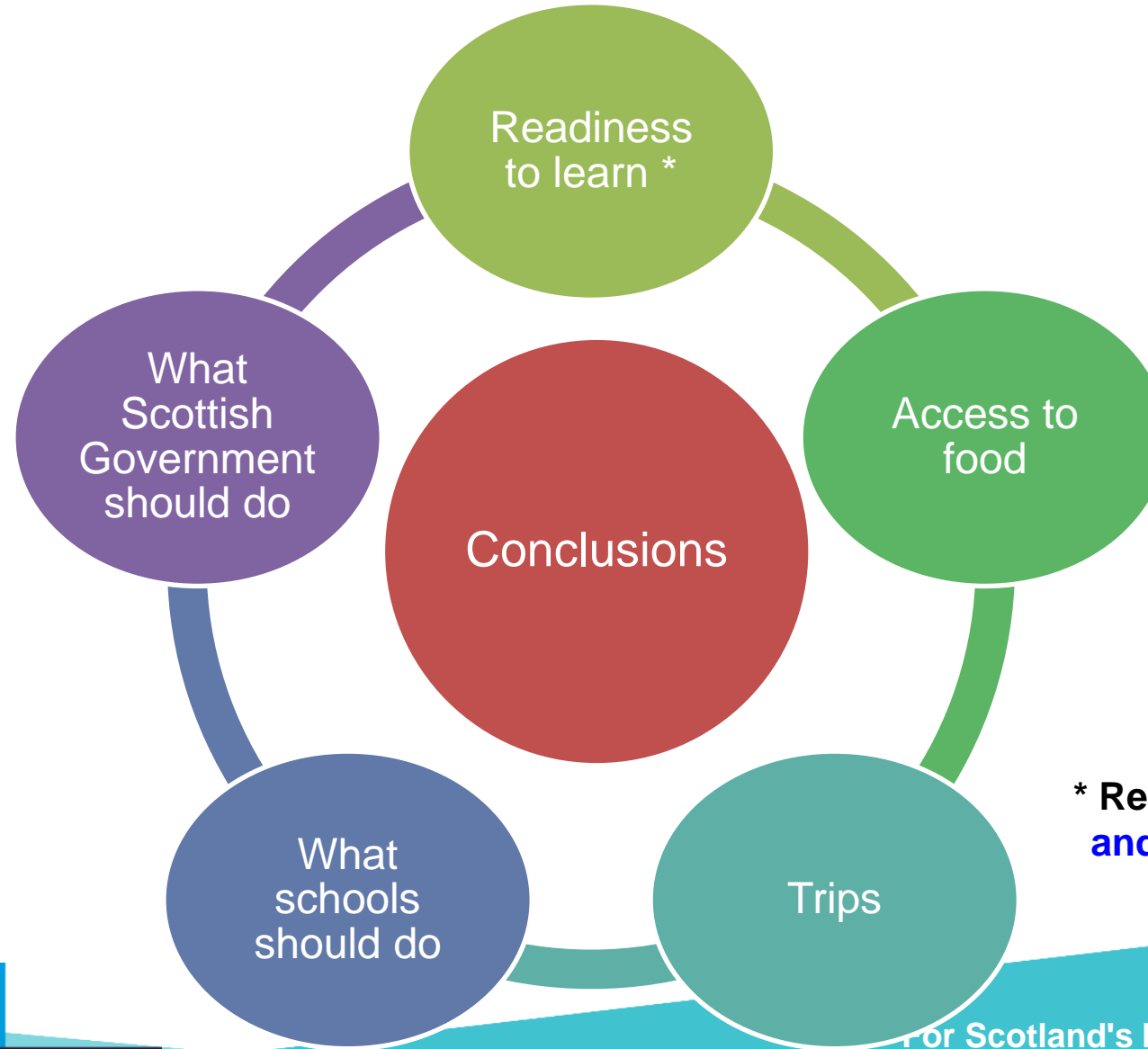
Thinking about ...
What can you do and
What can you influence?



Conclusions



as identified by
children and
young people



* Readiness to learn – what **children and young people** need to succeed in school (focus their needs)

YOUNG SCOT

Challenges to feeling ready to learn

This graphic highlights some of the key barriers young people face to feeling ready to learn and engage in education. The findings and quotes included here are from Young Scot's *What I Need to Learn* survey. The survey collected views from over 1,000 young people across Scotland. Scan the QR code to read the full report.

Health + Wellbeing

'I have often been finding it difficult to learn and study due to my lack of motivation...I always find myself doing something else within the first 10 minutes of studying or daydreaming when I am trying to learn in class. This drastically dampens my grades and affects my mental state as well, causing me to feel extreme stress and a really unstable state of mind.'

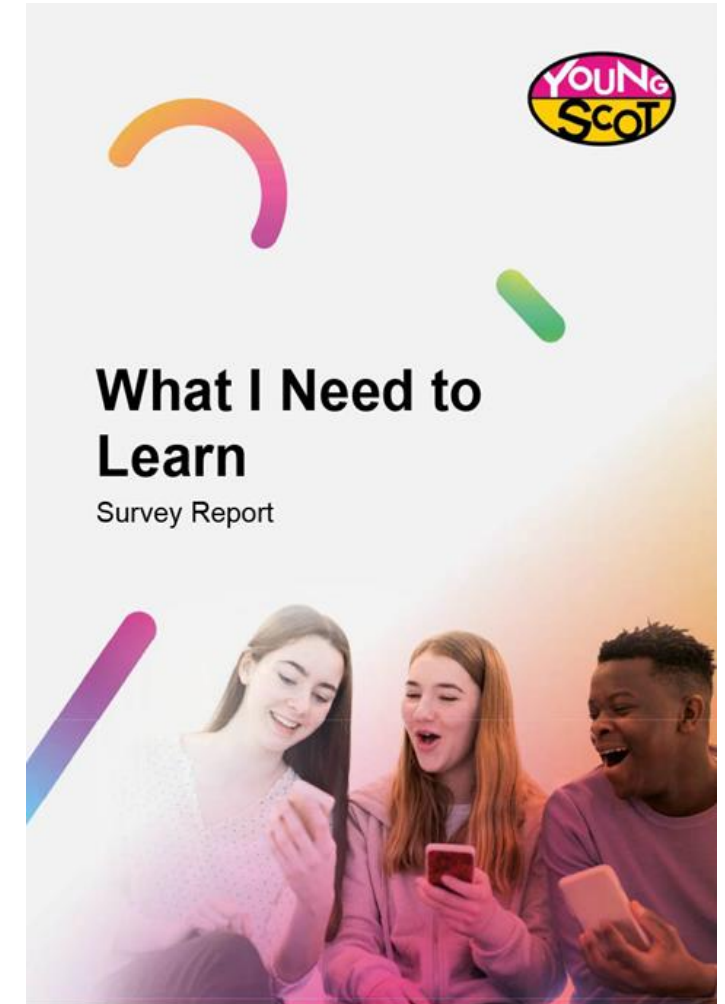
Mental health is a significant barrier for young people feeling ready to learn.

Confidence, motivation and the right attitude are all important factors in young people's readiness to learn.

What I need to learn

The 'What I Need to Learn' survey - October 2023 to January 2024.

- 1,035 responses
- Young people aged 11 to 26.
- 32 local authorities





What I need to learn

What I need to learn survey ran from October 2nd, 2023 to January 8th 2024. It was promoted through the Young Scot membership portal, social media links, and was promoted in schools via Education Scotland Attainment Advisors.



1,035

complete responses were received.



Responses were received from young people aged 11 to 26.



Responses were received from all 32 local authorities in Scotland

Please note that as not every respondent gave a reply to each question, totals may vary slightly from question to question.

I have people who will support, provide, and create safe spaces to help me. Not necessarily a guidance team but friends or parents who will do that instead.

I am interested in the subject.

What does it feel like to be ready to learn?

I am ready to find out more information about the topic. the main thing I want is to be interested in what I'm doing.

I'm sat ready in class.

Do you enjoy attending School?



What do you need to be ready to learn?

Other key themes are highlighted below.

Mental health and anxiety

Mental health. Physical Health. Chronic condition. Lack of help/support for chronic condition. Bullying from health institution. Mental Health problems, not elaborating

Learning environment

Quiet spaces are difficult in schools just because there's hardly anywhere that you could really be on your own

No quiet space

Barriers to learning

Can you share with us something which stops you from being ready to learn?



Poor behaviour in class
Other students being disruptive. You can have as favourable environmental conditions in the classroom as you like, or the best teacher in the school or well-organised and detailed notes. However, if the most crucial time: in person teaching time, is disadvantaged by disruptive classmates, it really does hinder my learning process.

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Recommendations For Local Authorities

- Identify consistent approaches and any gaps
- Support all families with effective, family friendly communication around financial entitlements, including free school meals
- Support for schools to implement ideas from the Big Question
- Promote partnership working across the local authority.

Recommendations For Local Authorities

Consider of key points (as identified by children and young people)

- physical spaces in schools
- the structure of the school day
- access to trips in the local area
- difficulties surrounding food at school and free meal allowances

 **UN Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

 **Children's
Commissioner
for Wales**



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<https://youtu.be/63tK8H16O9M>

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Recommendations For Schools

Audit existing approaches - what is consistently in place, where are the gaps and what support is needed?

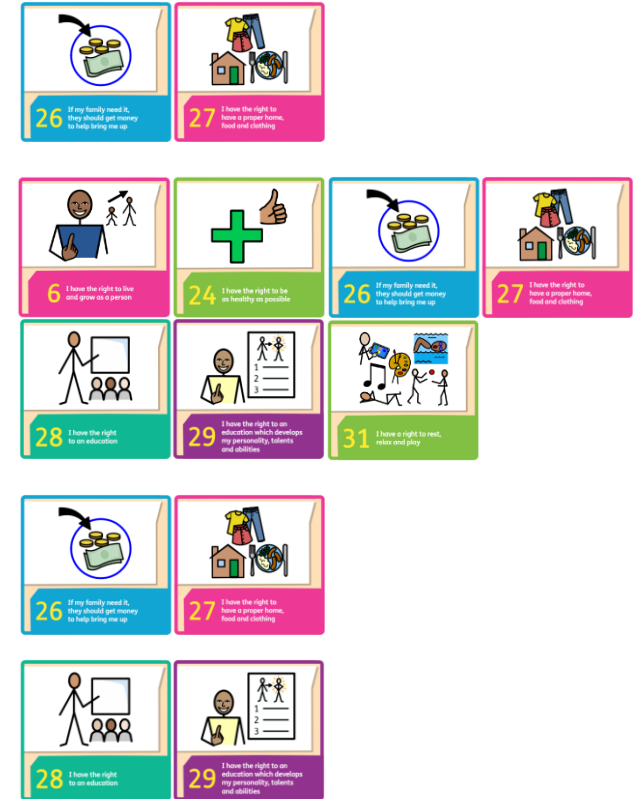
Focusing on

1. Provision of resources and support
2. Positive and safe school cultures
3. Ensuring family uptake of support



Recommendations For Schools (cont.)

4. Effective, universal, family friendly communication around financial entitlements
5. Support and subsidies for school trips and other opportunities
6. Access to food throughout the school day
7. A good school day



Recommendations For Schools (cont.)

8. Quiet, calm spaces, support for individual needs



9. Awareness raising of who to approach



10. Poverty and equity awareness in the school community



[Home](#) / [What we do](#) / [CPAG project work](#)
/ [Cost of the School Day](#) / [Cost of the School Day resources](#)

Cost of the School Day Ideas Bank

Measures schools across Scotland are taking to reduce costs, boost incomes and support low income families.

Challenge Poverty Week

(Monday 7th – Sunday 13th October)



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Whole School Approaches

NEILSLAND PRIMARY COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

CHARITY

Charity Events are limited and often don't actually raise money (but do raise awareness). When there is a cost, it is done through 'chuck it in a bucket' rather than demanding and collecting a set amount.

FUN FOR ALL

While School Fayres are important for the school to raise funds, they always ensure there are various activities that children and families can take part in which cost no money at all. There is never an entrance fee and even seeing Santa is a free event where the parents can take their own photographs.

LEARNING AT HOME

The school has an I.T/Digital Lending Library that parents are aware of and make use of as required. Homework is put on a Google Classroom but children can complete online or on paper. Children can borrow anything they want to do at home – books, chromebooks, jigsaws...

EXTRA HELP

Neilsland open up their shower for anyone who needs it. Toiletries and towels are provided. This has helped many families who are struggling to pay for hot water.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

After receiving a donation from an anonymous donor before Christmas, the school posted Asda Vouchers to particular homes and marked it 'from Santa'. They also applied for Hardship Grants from Cash 4 Kids and were able to support several families with supermarket gift cards based on £40 per child.

KNOWING FAMILIES

Parents are kept in touch with what is on offer through casual chats at the school gate and phonecalls home. The SLT are very aware that some of the families in most need of help are those who are in work but miss the threshold for FME and may be in a private rent in a house outwith SIMD 1 or 2.

Storyboard

School:

Cost of the School Day –Theme

Anytown School

A school reflection on the impact of CoSD, approaches in their context

Impact of Intervention

Evidence based rationale

Target Group

Resources

What was done?

Reflection / Lessons learned

Lead Contact & Role:

Impact of Intervention: What evidence of progress did you gather? (You may mention the area of focus as a theme here)

What was identified as the barrier to learning?

What was the direct and indirect reach? What year group / stage was it targeted at?

Cost? Staffing resource? Professional learning? What was needed to implement it?

Outline steps of delivery and how progress was tracked and monitored.

Any outside influencing factors unplanned for? Is it sustainable? Would it need the same cost if done again?

Audio supported slides

Video conversations

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Where Next?

Evidencing effective practice across Scotland

Complete the MS Form to help us identify approaches to gather evidence of impact

- Identification of whole School approaches to supporting Cost of the School Day

Aligned to the recommendations for schools

- Storyboard on school approach(es)
- Audio supported slides
- Video conversations

Cost of The School Day - The Big Question



<https://forms.office.com/e/XDXdPpChyb>

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