

## Cost Of The School Day – CPAG Scotland Report

We are delighted to share the Cost of the School Day Dundee report <https://bit.ly/2MaOGkU> highlighting the cost barriers children from low income families face in Dundee schools and setting out the ways those barriers can be removed. Cost of the School Day Dundee was a key recommendation of the Dundee Fairness Commission in 2016.

### THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY DUNDEE



Children who are unable to participate in the same activities as their peers will very often not feel included and this can have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. The key is finding possible solutions to ensure all children have the same opportunities." (Primary teacher)

The report is based on work with pupils, staff and family members in schools and nurseries across Dundee. It sets out how a range of costs across the school day can impact on pupils' ability to participate, belong and achieve alongside their peers. Particular costs highlighted include lunch, uniform, trips - particularly the P7 residential - and charges for core subjects like Home Economics, Drama and Art.

"£2 a day [for lunch] over a year is a lot... if your mum and dad have two or three kids then that's a lot of money, especially if one of them is in high school." (Pupil, P6)

"I dread it (school trips), it might just be £5 but you've still got to find the money from somewhere." (Parent)

"Course fees are just really unfair. It's not a free curriculum." (Secondary teacher)

CPAG in Scotland is delighted to have Scottish Attainment Challenge support for a second year in Dundee where we will provide support to schools and Dundee City Council to take forward recommendations from the report. Susan Epsworth, Cost of the School Day Dundee Project Coordinator, says

"What we've found out is so useful and really points to the value of asking these questions and exploring these issues with children and their families – sometimes you don't know what you don't know. We're looking forward to working with schools and partners across the city on the next stages of the project."

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