



BOWERHAM PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

&

BABY UNIT

Poverty Proofing at Bowerham

DATE: July 2024

Review date: July 2025

Stand tall, reach high, love learning



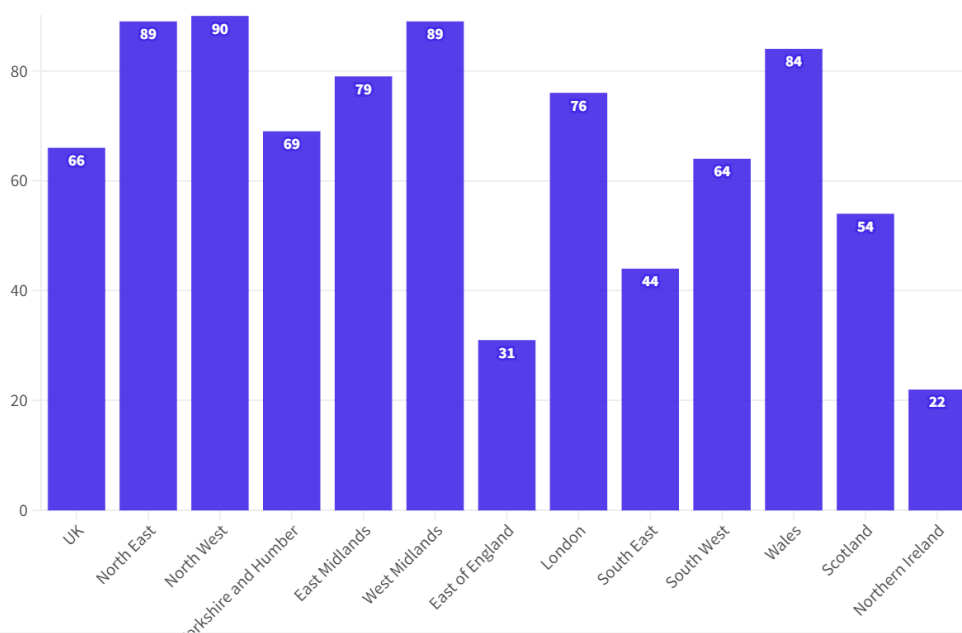
Child poverty facts and figures 2024 - [Child Poverty Statistics 2024 - End Child Poverty](#)

Summary and Recommendations from this Year's Statistics

- 4.3 million children were in relative poverty, after housing costs – representing 30% of all children in 2022/23,
- 2/3 of parliamentary constituencies have a child poverty rate of 25% or more,
- Rates of child poverty at or above 25% are particularly prevalent in the North East, North West West Midlands and Wales. In the North West, the worst impacted region, 90% of all parliamentary constituencies have a child poverty rate of 25% or more
- There is a strong positive correlation between child poverty and the two-child limit to benefit payments
- There is widespread inequality in the rate of child poverty within the countries and regions of the UK, and this has widened over time.



Percentage of constituencies with a child poverty rate of at least 25%





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Today's *Households Below Average Income*, published by the DWP and covering April 2021-April 2022 shows:

- 350,000 more children were pulled into relative poverty (after housing costs) in 2021-2022. That means 4.2 million children (29% of all UK children) were in poverty - up from 3.6 million in 2010-11.
- 45% of all children in poverty were in families with a youngest child aged under five
- 71% of poor children lived in working families
- Poor families have fallen deeper into poverty: 2.7 million children were in deep poverty (i.e. with a household income below 50% of after-housing-costs equivalised median income) 500,000 more than in 2010/11
- 47% of children in Asian and British Asian families are in poverty, 53% of children in Black/ African/ Caribbean and Black British families, and 25% of children in White families
- 44% of children in lone parents families were in poverty
- 42% of children in families with 3 or more children were in poverty, up from 36% a decade earlier.
- 36% of children living in families where someone has a disability were in poverty

[Official child poverty statistics: 350,000 more children in poverty and numbers will rise | CPAG](#)

What is Poverty Proofing the school day ?



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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 are predicted to continue to rise .

At Bowerham we are committed to ensuring that every child has equal access to all 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 households income or resources are lower than others.

Poverty proofing the School Day aims to support Bowerham 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 am providing a free breakfast and warmth in the winter months. KS 2 pupils can come on their own and KS 1 need to be accompanied by an adult.
- School opens at 8.30 for all children to go straight to their classrooms.
- School provides a casual afterschool club for all parents to use this to give parents flexibility. School uses the club to offer free after school care for parents who need childcare and may not be able to afford it. For example on child maybe at an after school club activity, we let other siblings into the club to keep costs down for parents travelling to and from school.
- School in partnership with Bowerham Kids club provide holiday care provision, more recently with the HAF project.
- School has an experienced pastoral team to work hard to build relationships up with all families in need of support and or help. School has capacity to offer direct support for families and children as well as signpost support in the local community. This communicated through Parent App, Facebook, Instagram and on our website. Eg; <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>.

School Clothing

- School uniform ensured that it is easily accessible, plain with no logos- other than the school badge on jumpers, to prevent 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.



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- 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 to avoid parents feeling uncomfortable.
- We provide uniform for all families that cannot afford it or do not have access to public funds.

Food and snacks

- School provides support for parents in completing the FSM application.
- Office staff regularly support any help to families who may need assistance in completing forms.
- Fruit/snacks/toast is available to all children in nursery/reception/KS1.
- School provides food/water bottles or a snack for any child that complains of being hungry.

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.
- Marble days are for fun learning, we never ask children to bring in electrical items from home.

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.

Charity, fundraising & community

- We keep non-uniform days down to a minimum, donations are always something you can find in a cupboard or perhaps an unwanted gift.
- Children are asked not bringing sweets /treats /cakes to celebrate thro birthdays as this can lead to peer pressure .
- Christmas party day is alongside Christmas dinner day to avoid an extra cost
- School provide have a present room so children can buy their parents a present for Christmas at cost of £1.



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- Secret Santa for all children where each child buys one children a gift to stop children giving at further gifts at school.
- All children are given a poppy, a donation is asked for to ensure all children treated the same; this then avoids the competition for extras.
- Summer Fair provides an experience at the doorstep for all families at cost.
- No charges for school events throughout the year other than the summer fair.
- Disco charge is for a drink and hotdog /vegdog for all children.

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 £ 20 22/23 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.
- This year all year groups will have an overview of all trips for the year, this will go on parent app as a reducing balance so parent can pay a little off as and when families can afford.
- Year 5 do not go on a trip that cost money as they are paying for their year 6 residential to France. Parents are given a year to pay their and longer if needed.

This is what we currently do, we now 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 for you comments please feel free to write down your thoughts and recommendations. Please return to school with your child or to the school office by half term.

Thank you in anticipation,

Jo Banks and all the Bowerham family

Barrier	Comment	Recommendation



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Additional Comments		