

THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Primary Voice Online Meeting Summary

October 28, 2025

Meeting agenda

- To hear from pupils who attended the Cost of the School Day Young People Summit
- Share the calls from the Young People's Education and Poverty Manifesto and ask for pupil responses
- Call for schools to share and present at future meetings.

Pupils from Blackland's Primary School in North Ayrshire gave a definition of the Cost of the School Day, explaining it was about making sure no child lives in poverty and everyone can participate in school life.

"It means that we take care of poverty and make sure no one lives in poverty"

Pupil input

Pupils from Dunlop Primary School in East Ayrshire, Sophia, Maya and Adyan, presented and shared their experience attending the Cost of the School Day Young People's Summit in Glasgow.



They shared the activities they do in school to reduce costs, including their Halloween costume swaps, free fruit, 1:1 digital devices, school trips funded through Parent Council activities and their "Heart" Initiative "Helping Everyone At the Right Time", a space where pupils can access essentials (e.g. toothbrushes, tights, jumpers) without needing permission, promoting dignity and inclusion.

They spoke about the workshops on communication they took part in, sharing ideas, and creating posters at the summit.

They enjoyed meeting First Minister John Swinney where they presented him with a letter and discussed their “Heart” initiative.

Sophie said ***“I found it really fun to mix with other schools and see what they're doing in their schools to help, and it was also really fun to learn more about child poverty and ways we can stop it”***

Maya shared ***“it was really fun to like join in with other schools and see their ideas for it to stop child poverty and to meet John Swinney and see his ideas as well”***

Adyan agreed, sharing ***“It was a really good experience that it wasn't just us being there. We got to take part, and you got to share our views.”***

[You can see lots of great pictures and hear more about their experience at the Summit in this brilliant Sway.](#)

Young People’s Education and Poverty Manifesto Discussion

Pupils reviewed the five key asks for the government:

1. End poverty so children have what they need at home.
2. Fund schools to remove cost barriers and make sure there are enough school staff to support children.
3. Ensure basic needs (food, clothing, devices, resources) are met.
4. Support access to trips and fun learning.
5. Amplify children’s voices in decision-making.

Many agreed all five points were important. Some highlighted specific needs like affordable after-school care and residential experiences as being really important to them.

“Because we need to be ready to learn at school, so it’s important we have what we need at home to help us prepare.”Toronto Primary pupils

“We feel that number 4 would be relevant to our school. Making sure all children have access to lots of learning opportunities.” Fintry Primary (Stirling) pupils

“We think number one because if people have what they need they will be ready to learn at school.”Harestanes Primary pupils

Dunlop Primary pupils emphasised that children should be involved in shaping policies, not just governments.

“Because it should not just be government changing everything and children should get a say too.”

The final manifesto will be coming soon, and we want as many schools as possible to help share it – more details to follow.

Future input from schools

Toronto Primary School, Dalintober Primary School and Clober Primary school all expressed interest in presenting at future meetings.

Kirsty will be in touch with schools to help them to prepare and share their CoSD work online after Christmas.

Finally, well done and huge thank you to Sophia, Maya and Adyan from Dunlop Primary School for their brilliant presentation!