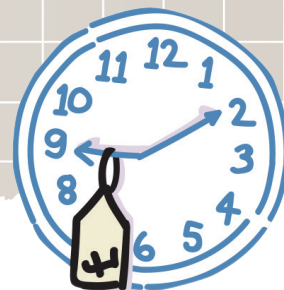


# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF YOUR SCHOOL DAY?

This group discussion exercise is designed to help you explore and estimate likely costs for families in your school, providing a baseline measure against which progress can be measured.

For each part of the school day, you are asked to reflect on how much money families are likely to spend. Refer to school policies and also to your knowledge and experience of how things are done in your school.

### Please note:

- Add any missing items to the boxes in each section. Leave blank any boxes which are not applicable to your school
- Costs vary depending on age and stage of children. Consider the perspectives of different learners to understand costs at different stages, e.g. a P1, P4 and P7 pupil or an S1, S4 and S5/6 pupil
- Some costs may not be mandatory - consider though what children and young people are likely to need and want and what parents/carers are likely to try to provide for their children
- In each category, choose the time period – weekly, monthly or annually – which gives you the clearest picture of cost pressures on family budgets, e.g. annually for larger irregular costs like uniform and trips and weekly/monthly for regular costs like travel and lunch
- The discussion required to reach decisions will be invaluable in understanding where costs come from and when they are most significant so please record key discussion points in the summary notes boxes.

What are the most significant costs for families at your school?

What are pupils from low income families at risk of missing out on?

What times of year might be most difficult financially for families?

What are the hidden costs of participation in school life?

# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 1 UNIFORM COSTS

Estimate uniform costs in the table below. Please take into account the school uniform policy, growth of child, changes of clothes required for washing, wear and tear throughout the school year and factors which result in additional costs, e.g. braiding, change of tie, unusual colours, embroidered logos or specialist suppliers.

- Consider costs for those families receiving clothing grants and those not receiving clothing grants
- **Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.**



Estimated uniform costs			
Items	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Recommended school uniform			
PE kit			
Shoes			
Coats/jackets			
Schoolbag			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. highest costs, times of the year with highest costs, factors which could lead to additional costs, current uptake of clothing grant, impact of receiving clothing grant, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 2 TRAVEL COSTS

Estimate travel costs in the table below. Take into account daily travel from home to school and back, any additional travel for after school activities and the eligibility policy surrounding free transport in your local authority area.

- Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.



Estimated travel costs			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Bus			
Train			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to have the highest costs, considerations on eligibility for free transport, time of the year with highest costs, instances where additional travel costs apply, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 3 LEARNING COSTS

Estimate any costs associated with learning at school in the table below. Take into account school policy and variations in teacher practices surrounding provision and lending of materials.

- Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.



Estimated learning at school costs			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Stationery and equipment, e.g. folders, calculators			
Subject costs, e.g. Home Economics, Technical, Art and Design			
Materials for craft projects			
Study materials e.g. Past Papers			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to have the highest costs, stages and times of the year with highest costs, any variations in provision of materials across the school, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 4 SCHOOL TRIP COSTS

Estimate costs for school trips in the table below. Take into account nominal fees for transport to free venues and any hidden costs involved in participation (e.g. spending money and money for food if not taking school lunches).

- Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.



Estimated trips cost			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Day trips related to curriculum			
Residential trips			
Other trips			
Equipment for residential trips (e.g. sleeping bags, clothes, toiletries)			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to participate/not participate, frequency of trips, notice given, significant hidden costs, stages and times of the year with highest costs, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 5 EATING AT SCHOOL COSTS

Estimate costs for eating at school in the table below. Take into account free school meal (FSM) entitlement and uptake, cost of school lunches and the cost of food in local shops if pupils leave school at lunchtime.

- Please consider costs for children receiving free school meals and not receiving free school meals.
- **Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.**



Estimated eating at school costs			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Breakfast club			
Snacks			
Lunch			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to have the highest costs, current uptake of FSM, impact of P1-3 FSM and FSM uptake in later years, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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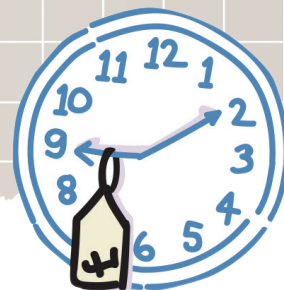


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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 6 SCHOOL CLUB/ACTIVITIES COSTS

Estimate costs for attending school clubs and taking part in extra-curricular activities in the table below. Take into account the full range of activities and opportunities available within the school and any hidden costs involved in participation (e.g. travelling to competitions, appropriate sportswear).



- Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.

Estimated clubs/activities costs			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Entry fees			
Equipment and materials			
Clothes			
Transport			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to participate/not participate, significant hidden costs, stages and times of the year with highest costs, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 7 FUN EVENT COSTS

Estimate costs for participating in fun events at school in the table below. Take into account the full range of events throughout the school year, including those promoted as optional which pupils may still want to take part in.

- Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.



Estimated fun event costs			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Social events, e.g. discos, ceilidhs, Proms, leavers dances			
Seasonal events, e.g. Christmas Fayres and pantomimes, Easter bonnet competitions			
Special days, e.g. World Book Day			
Fundraising days, e.g. Comic Relief, non-uniform days			
School photographs			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

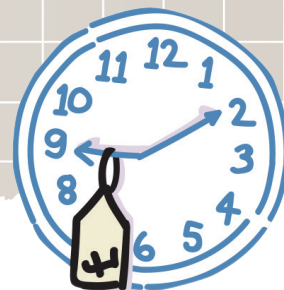
**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to participate/not participate, frequency of events, notice given, stages and times of the year with highest costs, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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# THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



## 8 HOME LEARNING COSTS

Estimate home learning costs in the table below. Take into account school policy and variations in teacher practices surrounding provision and lending of materials.

- Please choose the most useful time period for you – weekly, monthly or yearly – when calculating costs.



### Estimated fun event costs

	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Stationery and equipment			
Computer access, including appropriate software			
Internet access			
Books and other study materials			
Craft materials			
Other (please write below)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Summary notes** e.g. groups likely to have the highest costs, stages and times of the year with highest costs, any variations in provision of materials across the school, ways in which the school tries to reduce costs...

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