

Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds say that school is the hardest place for them because they feel different, and are treated differently, every day by staff and by their peers.

School is not free, there are many hidden costs, but pupils say that staff attitudes/ignorance of their situation is the worst barrier.



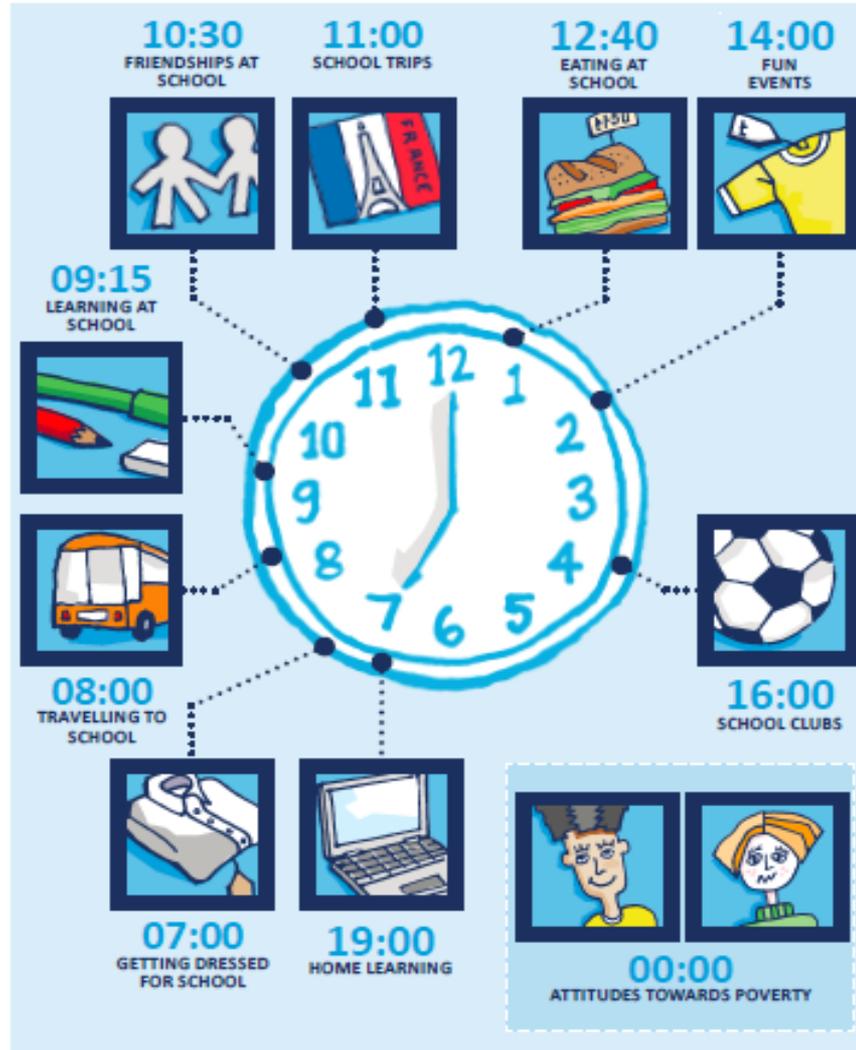
The aim of the project is for you to tell us what the barriers for pupils are in this school, to support them and help avoid unintentional discrimination in the future.

So what might the unintentional barriers be?

More than half of children have avoided asking their parents for something school related because they thought they would struggle to afford it.

23% of pupils say they have felt badly prepared for an exam because their family couldn't afford the revision materials.

For many families, education-related costs make up a large portion of the family budget. Parents say that, on average, they spend £800 per child each year on school costs.



30% of pupils have chosen not to do a course at school or college because of its cost.

A third of children who said their family is 'not well off at all' have fallen behind in class because their family could not afford the necessary books or materials and didn't have a computer or internet facilities at home.

1 in 10 girls and women aged 14-21 say they are unable to afford sanitary protection and 49% have missed an entire day of school/college because of this, of which 59% said they made up a lie or alternative excuse for it.

Two in five children who live in families that are 'not well off at all' have missed a term time school trip because of the cost.

More than a quarter (27%) of poor children and young people say they have been bullied as a result of being poorer than their friends at school.

An estimated 85% of UK secondary schools now hold a prom during June or July, the majority for 15- and 16-year-olds after their GCSEs. Estimates vary, but some reckon that British parents are now lavishing £30m a year on the parties.

Fun events can create difficulties for children and young people from low income households when they happen close together or have hidden costs. Children and young people can feel embarrassed or left out when they can't take part in events and activities. In particular, non-uniform days single people out for non-participation or the clothes they wear and leads to a dip in attendance in some schools.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF EVE, AGE 14

