
Poverty Proofing Charter 2022

This charter has been created in response to findings from the Poverty Proofing audit which took place in July 2021. It has been developed through consultation with professionals, specifically with expertise in supporting disadvantaged children, as well as parents, teachers and pupils who were all spoken to or had the opportunity to share their thoughts during the audit.

The purpose of the charter is to ensure a consistent approach throughout school, so that no child feels stigmatised or excluded regardless of their background or socio-economic status.

All children will have access to the full curriculum (both academic and beyond) to meet their needs in a positive and equitable learning environment.

Barrier	Response	Rationale
Trips		
Spending money on trips	Children should not bring spending money on trips	The purpose of the trip is for the experience and learning opportunity that it offers. By not permitting spending money children will still have the same experience/ learning but prevents any child feeling isolated or inadvertently placing pressure on families.
Cost of trips	Trips costs will all be capped at £5	We recognise that trips can be expensive for families and can add financial pressure so by supplementing the cost we hope to make it more manageable for all. Families in receipt of pupil premium will have the cost covered entirely.
Publishing trips in advance	We will ensure that parents are notified of upcoming trips in advance (approximately 4 weeks).	This is to ensure that families are able to plan for the expense, especially where larger families have multiple children/ siblings.
Gifts		
Gifts from teachers	All children will be gifted a book at the end of Autumn and Summer Term.	We recognise that buying books may be difficult for some families and that reading is of highest importance to learning and development. By gifting books we can ensure that all children have books in their home and also means there is consistency throughout school without the

		expectation for teachers to purchase presents themselves.
Gifts for teachers	Teachers will thank pupils for gifts personally without drawing attention to presents received. Teachers will not share social media posts displaying or drawing attention to gifts they have received.	Both teachers and pupils are able to show their gratitude and appreciation without children/ families who are not able/ or choose not to purchase gifts, feeling pressured or left out.
Celebrations		
End of year celebrations (Year 6)	End of school celebrations will be fully funded by the school. Children will have an inflatables activity day and will be provided with a leavers t-shirt to wear in place of their uniform.	There will be no financial obligation including to purchase new clothing meaning that all children will be equal and included.
End of term/ year parties	Any donations (such as to bring in food) will be collected as a whole. All children will share what has been collected.	Children will not be able to identify who has or has not brought a donation in or the quantity or quality of it. All will be able to enjoy and participate in the event.
Children discussing or being asked what they did in the holiday	Instead of whole class discussions, where possible, teachers will have personal discussions with children to ask who they spent time with as a conversation opener rather than what they did. Children will not be asked to write about what they did in the holiday.	Children may feel uncomfortable discussing what they did over the holiday especially where they may not have done anything due to financial restrictions or because they did not celebrate a particular occasion.
Pupil birthdays	Pupils are not permitted to bring in cakes or party items/ food for birthdays. All children will be given a birthday badge to wear for the day and sang to in class. Party invitations should not be handed out during school time.	Some families are able to afford and send in large items to celebrate birthdays where others are not. By ensuring all have the same we eliminate children feeling inferior on their birthdays or parents feeling pressured to meet the same standard.
Charity		
Non-uniform days	Non-uniform days will only take place on the last day of term and will be free of charge.	At VPA, we see an increase in attendance on non-uniform days. By placing them at the end of the term we hope to encourage

		greater attendance until we break up. By limiting it to once per term, we hope to minimise stigmas about what children choose to wear.
Charity days	We will support charities through raising awareness in school and by sharing relevant links with parents to be able to make a donation if they wish. We will not sell items on behalf of charities .	Not all children have the money to purchase the items and may therefore feel excluded. By raising awareness of the charities work we are still supporting them without children feeling pressure to make a donation.
World book day	World book day will be in school uniform and will be orientated around activities that develop and promote a love of learning.	World book day dressing up places pressure on families to purchase a costume, for a single day and does often not contribute to a child's enjoyment or understanding of the importance of reading. This can mean that children do not attend or feel excluded and consequently do not engage in the purpose of the day – to promote a love of reading.
School fayres	All children will be given a set number of raffle tickets so that they can attend the fayre and participate in the games.	All children will be able to enjoy the fayre without exclusion.
Uniform		
School uniform/ p.e kit	No child will miss out on a learning experience because they have incorrect or no kit/ uniform. Names of children will be noted by the class teacher and shared with phase leaders/ office staff to send a letter offering support options for getting the correct uniform. A supply of uniform and P.E kits will be stored in the phase leaders room for children to access and change into if needed.	All children will receive the relevant curriculum learning regardless of their ability to purchase uniform/ kit. Families will be supported to ensure that their child has the correct attire in school in line with the school's high expectations.
Food		
Breakfast	All children will have access to a toasted bagel everyday	Many children attend school having not had breakfast for

	before they begin their learning.	various reasons resulting in lower concentration levels and general health. This will ensure all children are in the best possible position to learn.
Snacks at breaktime	All children in EYFS and KS1 have access to fruit everyday. All children in EYFS have access to milk everyday. Children in KS2 are encouraged to bring healthy snacks.	All of these measures are to promote healthy eating and ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn.
Healthy Lunches	All children must be served a fruit or vegetable of their choosing at lunch. They receive a raffle ticket for eating their fruit/ vegetable and clearing their plate. Raffle tickets are then drawn in assembly to receive a special lunch as a reward.	Children are encouraged and motivated to make healthy eating choices.
Lunchtime seating	During lunchtime, all children will sit together regardless of whether they are sandwiches or dinners.	Some children may feel left out or excluded from their friends depending on whether they have sandwiches or dinners.
Home work		
Homework	Homework will be limited to spellings, times tables and reading throughout school. Chn in Years 5 and 6 to receive flipped learning homework. Children should not receive a sanction for not completing homework. Instead a record should be kept and support explored with the family on an individual basis. Information about the weekly spellings/ times tables to be practised is printed for all pupils as well as on the website. Medium term plans (what each year group will be learning week by week) is published on	Not all children have the space, accessibility or support for homework. Through home learning (lockdown) we saw the greatest parental engagement with times tables and spelling which do not require space or additional resources. Reading books are provided by the school at a level which should be accessible to the pupil independently so that little support is required. Children in Years 5 and 6 are given flipped homework to help prepare them for secondary school.

	the website so that parents are able to source additional work that aligns to the learning if they wish. Useful links and sites are recommended on the school website.	
Things from home		
Pencil cases	All stationary will be supplied by school. Personal pencil cases are not permitted.	This will ensure that all children receive the same and that disagreements about who can or cannot use a pupil's personal resources do not occur.
Toys from home	Toys or items from home of any sort are not permitted in school. Any items brought in will be looked after by the teacher and then returned at the end of the day to be taken home. Equipment and games will be provided at lunch times.	Not all children are able to bring in toys in response to the latest trend meaning they can feel left out or excluded. Equipment will be provided to ensure that children are having daily opportunities to be active and keep fit whilst promoting the importance of healthy lifestyle choices.
Other		
Rewards and sanctions	A revision of the school behaviour policy to incorporate a trauma informed response.	Ensure that we are able to set high expectations of behaviour whilst meeting the needs of our most vulnerable children
Attendance and punctuality	Children should not be asked why they are late or have been absent publicly. They should be warmly welcomed in and any concerns discussed privately/ with parents.	Children do not feel worried about coming in late or being absent where it is out of their control.

We realise that some of the responses/ actions listed are a move away from things that we may have permitted in the past or that some may feel like restrictions for those without financial barriers. However, we aim to provide an equal opportunity for all in school and hope that all are able to see the value in our amended approach.