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DOORSTEP DISADVANTAGE

PLACE & POVERTY INFORMED PRACTICE IN OUR SCHOOLS



@SeanHarris_NE



@ThatPovertyGuy

Five bullet biog...

- Parent
- Researcher, writer
- Trust Leader
- Lived experience of poverty
- Christian, faith-based stance



Disclaimer...



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Disclaimer...



Overview

What do we know about poverty?

Using poverty & place informed approaches

What next?

Quick quiz

8 out of 30	3.9 million	£1,755.97	56%

Quick quiz

8 out of 30	3.9 million	£1,755.97	56%
Children in an average classroom living in poverty	Children living in poverty across the UK in 2020/21	Annual cost of going to secondary school per child (£864.87 for primary)	Children saying cost of living leading cause of anxiety in their life right now
<i>NEU/Turning the Page on Poverty (2020)</i>	<i>Household below average income figures (2021)</i>	<i>School Sums: What does going to school really cost families? (CPAG; May 2023)</i>	<i>Young Minds/Beano Brains (Aut, 2022)</i>

“

**God created humans in his
own image...**

”

Genesis Chapter 1

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Defining poverty

02:00

- What do we mean by **disadvantage and/or poverty**?
- What does this look like in everyday terms in the community we serve?



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Defining disadvantage



- General consensus that it is a **'pronounced deprivation'** of wellbeing (Haughton and Khandker 2009)
- Measures of poverty sometimes used to operationalise the term poverty (Lister, 2004)
- Lack of resource and access to basic needs (Townsend 1979)
- Can't talk about poverty without considering broader topics of household **wellbeing, health and sustained poverty** (Marmot 2020; Vos and Sanchez 2010)

Researching poverty



Research suggests....	Yes	No
Disadvantaged children and families have been hit harder than most other groups when it comes to the pandemic		
The Pupil Premium is an effective measure to identifying and responding to disadvantage in education		
Parents and children growing up in disadvantage largely lack aspiration or ambition		
Almost 4 in 10 children living in poverty in the North East are from working households		

Researching poverty

Research suggests....	Yes	No
Disadvantaged children and families have been hit harder than most other groups when it comes to the pandemic [Adfam 2020; Marmot 2022; Bambra et al 2021]	/	
The Pupil Premium is an effective measure to identifying and responding to disadvantage in education [Gorard, 2014; Holloway et al, 2012; Noden & West, 2009]		/
Parents and children growing up in disadvantage largely lack aspiration or ambition [Carter-Wall 2012; Spencer 2015; Sosu 2014]		/
Almost 4 in 10 children living in poverty in the North East are from working households [It's actually 7 in 10; Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty; June 2023]	/	

This much we know...

- Poverty was a pandemic before COVID-19 (Sharp 2020; Holloway et al 2014)
- Middlesbrough identified as area of most destitution in UK (JRF; 2020)
- More teachers personally handing out to children and families (NASUWT, 2023)
- 51,000+ more children pulled into poverty since 2015 in the North East (ECP; 2023)



Summary

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What next?

“

Be an expert in your pupils...
not the pupil premium

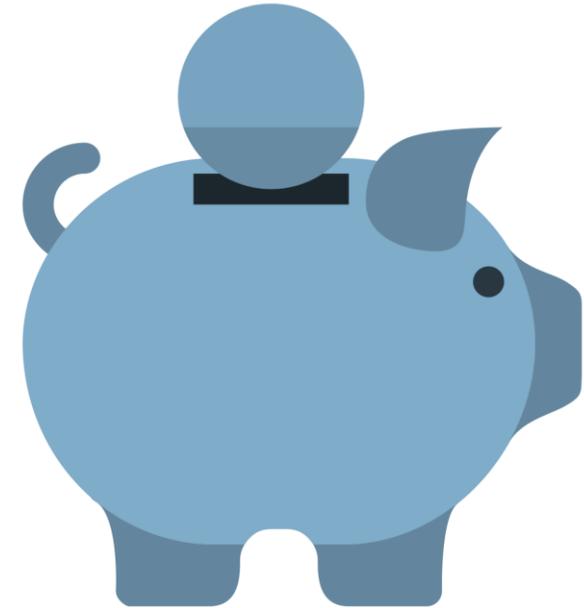
”

Marc Rowland (2021)

Addressing educational disadvantage in school and college

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FOR EXAMPLE...



“

**The beginning of wisdom is this:
Get wisdom.**

”

**Though it cost all you have,
get understanding...**

Proverbs 4:7

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Brief discussion



Reflection

- How do we better listen to the emerging needs of those we serve?
- How do we better listen to the needs of other schools?
- How do we better listen to need through dioceses/other networks?

Other ideas?

Pupils?
Families?

Schools?

Diocese?
CofE networks?

Other ideas?

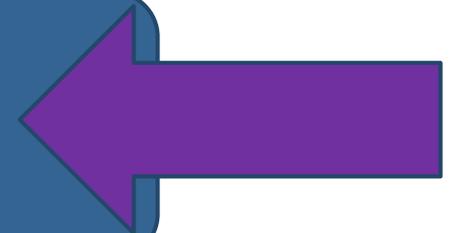
Pupils/students/families	Schools	Diocese, other networks...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify need: careful listening • Signpost actionable support pathways (e.g. foodbanks etc) • Crafting curriculum with poverty in mind (e.g. which concepts will need additional exposure etc?) • Diet walks in school • Research opinions on other matters; but then create opportunity to discuss poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting support in weekly roundups/Teams/memo board • Poverty informed CPD – understanding local context/research • Tackling misconceptions about poverty and narrative around it • Science of learning – poverty impacts brains – what can we do? • Cost of the school day audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share free resources (e.g. CofE coronation; CPAG calendar) • Facilitate links with other agencies and experts in these fields • Regular conferences / workshops on tackling educational inequality • Understanding local need CPD • Ensure CoL support signposted • Partnership work/funding opps

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Other aspects of the school day

Case study: Charity event week

- End of term; charity/Christmas week
- Students/colleagues encouraged to wear Christmas jumper/clothing to raise funds for a charity identified by the college/org
- Everybody donates £2
- Any issues? How could you reframe it?



Solution?

- ❑ Oxbridge Lane Primary School
- ❑ Headteacher: Mrs Amy Blackburn



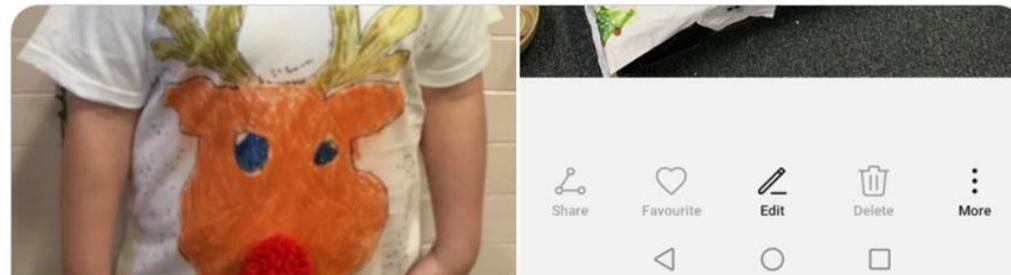
Oxbridge Lane PS
@OxBridg3LnPS



Knowing the anxiety that Christmas Jumper Day causes on some families, we decided to do something different this year.

Each child was bought a t-shirt and (as part of a DT project) they planned, decorated and evaluated the final product ready to wear tomorrow.

[#TeamOxbridgeLane](#)



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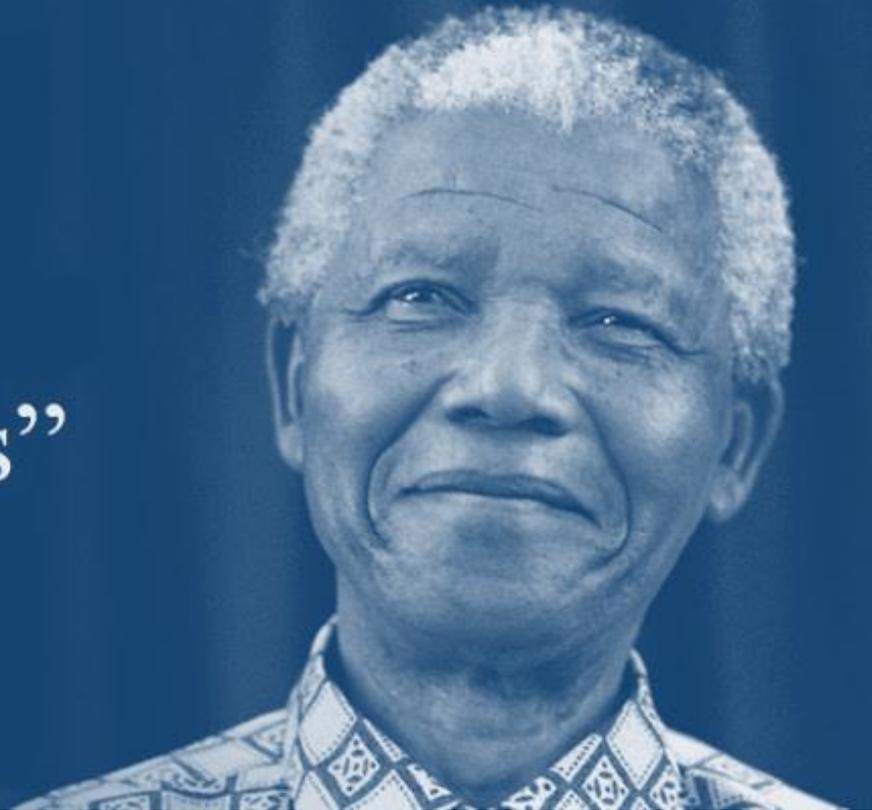
Next steps...

Take 3-minutes to think about:

- **DO** (Something you will do or try straight away)
- **DITCH** (Something you will perhaps stop doing or pause)
- **DEFER** (Something you'd like to pick up with others later)



"Poverty is not an accident,
like slavery and apartheid
it is man made,
and can be removed
by the actions of human beings"
Nelson Mandela



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Further Links

- [RE Podcast: poverty, church and schools](#) – Sean Harris, Louisa Harrop (Lichfield Diocese)
- [Neurology and the brain: Sean Harris](#), SecEd; Headteacher Update (2022)
- [Sean Harris – Doorstep Disadvantage](#), SecEd; Headteacher Update (2021)
- [Turning the Page on Poverty](#) (Child Poverty Action Group, Children NE)
- [Tackling poverty in schools & colleges PODCAST](#) (NEAT, CPAG, SecEd)
- [Cost of living crisis: conversations with pupils & schools](#) (2022)

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TVEduresearch Roundup

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300,000 children sharing beds
According to new research, more than two million children in England are living in overcrowded accommodation with little or no personal space, while some 300,000 share beds with family members.

PM seeks to address 'anti maths' mindset
Rishi Sunak has announced a review of maths in England and has said an "anti-maths mindset" is holding the economy back.

Student education maintenance grant boost
The Welsh government has announced that sixth form and college students from low-income households will receive a £10 grant increase to help with travel and food costs.

Attendance hubs to tackle school absence
The Department for Education is setting up new "sector-led" school attendance hubs to offer free support for schools in tackling low absence rates.

Eduresearch, CPD & other bits... 

Research: Health Equity North 2023
[link to research report here](#)

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Q&A



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