

Check with Ceri

KS3/KS4



Check with Ceri

We've created a fictional character called Ceri to help schools think about the costs of the school day and how they could affect families living in poverty. Ceri is a young person in your school whose family struggles to pay for the things they need to fully enjoy school life. Children and young people can use Ceri as a tool to talk indirectly about any concerns they have about school costs, helping to create a safe space for all.

There are two parts to this resource, part one asks children and young people to identify additional cost of the school day, and costs over the school year. It also asks children and young people to identify support your school already provides to families and make suggestions for change.

The second part is a tool for the school to recognise the areas of concern for children and young people and address their ideas for change. It also allows you the opportunity to consider current policies and the help you offer and notice areas for improvement.

Ceri's Champion

As part of recommendations set out in our report, we asked every school to appoint a "Ceri's Champion"; a governor or member of staff who makes sure that our resources are used to make sure that the school day is as affordable as possible for families. This activity will help Ceri's Champion to look at ways you are already supporting families who are living in poverty and also help you to identify areas of the school day that could improve to better support children, young people and their families.

Calendar of costs

- pupils

In our report we discovered that one of the main areas of concern for children, young people and the adults who care for them was the additional cost of school. This activity will help you to think about the additional cost of your school and help your school look at ways they can better support families living in poverty.

The first part of this activity is to be completed by young people.

Resources:

- Blank paper and pens.
- 'This is Ceri' handout.
- Your school's calendar of events.
- 'Cost of the school day' worksheet

Timing:

This activity will take 30 minutes to complete

How to do the activity:

- Split the class into small groups.
- Ask groups to note down all of the extra costs involved in an average day at school. Make sure to note the price if you know it. You may wish to think about the following:

Uniforms.

Equipment.

Lunch costs.

Extra costs associated with lessons (PE kits/art materials).

- Write these activities and costs on the '**Cost of the School Day**' worksheet.
- Next, go through your **school's calendar of events** and highlight any activities that have additional costs to families. Include them in your 'Cost of School Day' worksheet (remember to include the price if you know it).

Calendar of costs

- pupils

- Look at the **'This is Ceri' handout**.
The handout features the character of Ceri, a young person whose family lives in poverty. We have included some quotes from children and young people across Wales who shared their concerns/difficulties with living in poverty. With Ceri in mind, look at the additional costs you have identified. Thinking about your school fill in the third column on the **'Cost of the School Day' worksheet** noting if there is any support that Ceri could receive in your school. If you aren't aware of any support available then is there anything you think the school could do?
- Once you have completed the activity, hand your worksheet to your teacher. Your teacher will then pass it on to the school's 'Ceri's Champion', a member of staff your school has chosen to lead on ensuring changes in your school always consider those families that live in poverty. Ceri's Champion will look at your suggestions and create an action plan for your school and will feedback the changes the school is going to make so you can see the impact you have made.

Calendar of Costs

- adults

This activity should be done by Ceri's Champion, a member of staff your school has chosen to lead on ensuring changes in your school always consider those families that live in poverty. Ceri's Champion should be given support from governors/senior leadership team within the school.

Use the pupils' 'Cost of the School Day' worksheet to help you complete your Calendar of Costs. First, make note of any support that your school offers that the pupils haven't identified. Consider if there is a better way to share this support to pupils and their families to ensure that they are aware of them.

Next, look at the school calendar and identify any activities/events or even policies that may cost money that the children haven't mentioned. Again, think about any support that you currently offer to ensure these activities are available to all pupils. For any activities that don't already offer support think about how you could help families that may struggle to partake.

Finally, create an action plan, identifying areas for change and naming staff members who will lead on them.

If you do already offer support think about how you can best advertise this to families in the school. Use our "You Said, We Did" template to feed this back to the pupils who did the Cost of School activity so they understand how their ideas have helped the school think about support you offer pupils like Ceri.



Share with us

Scan this QR code and complete a short survey about your Calendar of Costs and if it has helped you to support pupils in your school.



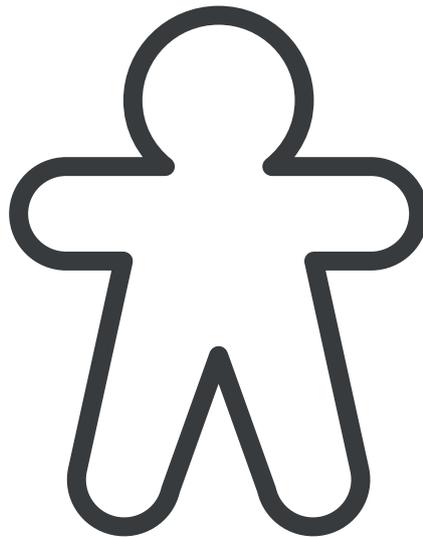
This is Ceri

I feel very miserable because my family are different to everyone else.

Jealous, I feel jealous because I can't afford important things and others can.

I feel really sad because my friends have things they want and I don't even have some things I need.

I don't feel safe and I don't feel any hope for the future, like it would be difficult to get a home, further education, get a job.



I feel like I can't talk to my family about my problems because they are already stressed, I feel like I need to get a job instead of going out and spending time with friends so I can provide for my family. I wouldn't tell my friends because I'd be scared they would make fun of me for not having the same things as them. I'd be lonely!

You Said, We Did

You Said	We Did