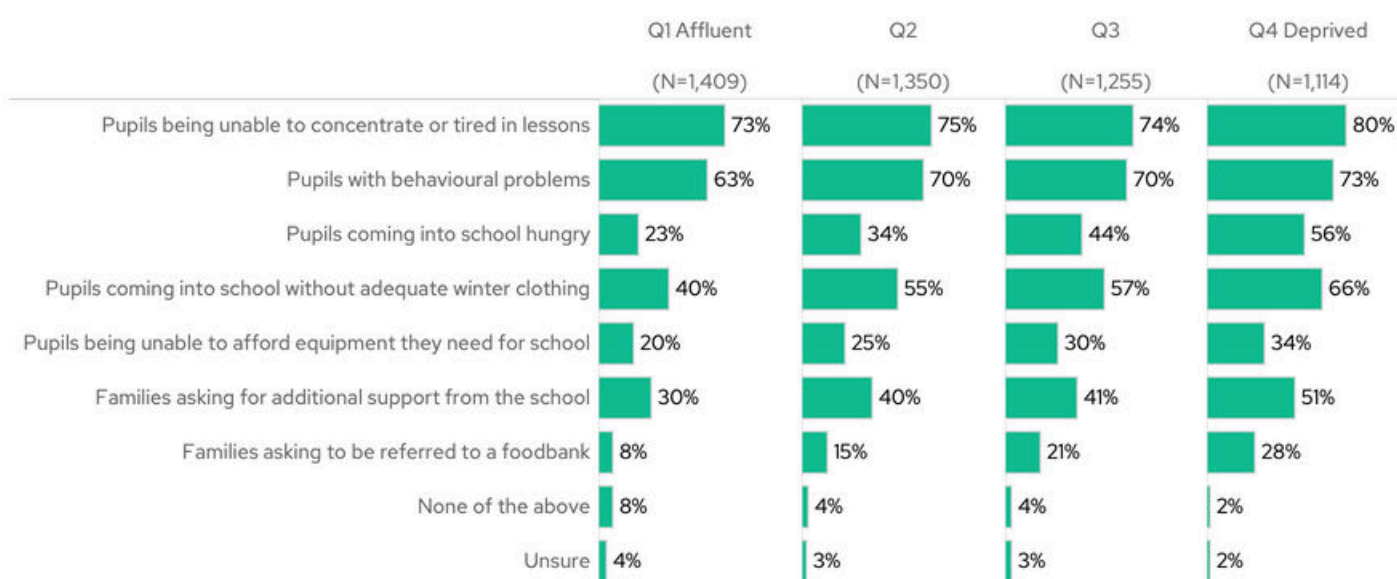


Poverty Proofing Education: A Society-Wide Approach

In April 2024, the House of Lords released a report that estimated 4.3 million, or 30% of all children in the UK were living in relatively low-income households. There are numerous poverty-driven challenges that young people and their families face when trying to access education. The impact of these challenges is clear in educational outcomes: 57% of non-disadvantaged pupils achieve a grade 5 in English and maths GCSE, compared to 30% of disadvantaged pupils. Teachers are working hard to remove these barriers which prevent full access to education.

During this autumn term, have you noticed any of the following increases amongst YOUR pupils?



Question answered by 5,128 teachers on 25/11/2022 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

Schools and hungry children

Over a third (39%) of state-funded schools in the most deprived areas provide free breakfast for all students – an **85%** increase since 2018. **Half** of teachers working in the most deprived areas reported an increase in pupils arriving at school feeling hungry. It is less than a **quarter** in the wealthiest areas (but note that even there, some pupils are arriving hungry).

Poorer pupils missing out on education

One in five (21%) teachers in the most deprived areas were forced to cancel a school trip due to insufficient parental contributions. In private schools, it was **5%**.

Children without the right clothing

Half of all teachers said a pupil has arrived without adequate clothing (like a winter coat) – the figure is **65%** higher in schools in the poorest areas compared to those in the wealthiest areas.

Parental contributions to school

Just under **one in five (17%)** teachers told us their schools ask parents for donations. **One in ten** teachers working in the most affluent areas say their school asks for a lump sum donation from parents at the start of the year.

