

# Challenge Poverty Week: Lesson plan

## Age group

Primary 4 - 7

## Timing

~ 1hr

## Learning objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand that some people in Scotland have less than others.
- Understand what it is like to have less than others.
- Understand the importance of treating others with kindness.

## Key vocabulary

- Kindness
- Compassion
- Justice
- Caring
- Poverty



## Teacher notes

Challenge Poverty Week aims to show the reality of poverty in Scotland, challenge stereotypes, highlight and showcase the solutions to poverty and increase public support for action to solve poverty.

In our society, we believe in showing compassion towards others, helping others and protecting each other from harm. Yet right now, one fifth of the population of Scotland are living in the grip of poverty, including one in four children. The Poverty Alliance believes that we share a moral responsibility to ensure that everyone in our country has a decent standard of living.

This lesson is intended to introduce pupils to the idea that some people in Scotland are living in poverty, surviving with significantly less than others. By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to discuss how kindness and compassion towards others can positively impact our society, ensuring everyone has enough to thrive.

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Lessons can be adapted to suit the needs of the class. (Activity 3 may not be possible as it requires access to computers.)

## Relevant Experiences & Outcomes, Benchmarks, UNCRC Articles:

CfE E's & O's	Benchmarks	UNCRC Articles
I can explain how the needs of a group in my local community can be supported. SOC 2-16a	Provides a basic explanation as to how the needs of a particular group within the local community can be supported, using relevant examples.	Article 26 You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need. Article 27 You have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means you should have food, clothes and a place to live.
I can gather and use information about forms of discrimination against people in societies and consider the impact this has on people's lives. SOC 2-16b	Uses evidence to form a valid opinion of the impact of discrimination or prejudice on people's lives, for example, racism or the effect of immigration.	Article 2 You have the right to protection against discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you speak another language, have a disability, or are rich or poor.

### Opening (5 mins)

Introduce the idea that not everyone in Scotland has what they need to live a happy, healthy life. (Use the mind-map slide to brainstorm things that might be a part of a happy life.)

“There are some people who do not have all they need (e.g. a warm home, enough food, access to transport, the ability to have leisure activities) and are living in poverty.

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Discuss with the pupils what they think this means.

## Activity 1: Statement corners (5 mins)

Read the statements from the slides and ask the pupils to go to the relevant corners/sides of the classroom depending on whether they agree or disagree with the statement. Discuss any statements for which the pupils may not all be in agreement.

## Activity 2: 'Breadline Kids' BBC Clip (15 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3GDxEYl6Qg>

(From beginning Dumfries and 32:45 Aberdeen for more pupil centric POV. Full documentary is 1hr.)

Watch a portion of the video and discuss what it means to be 'below the breadline'.

Think-Pair-Share with partner about the various financial, physical, mental and emotional challenges that the families face.

Discuss what can be done to help people who are living in poverty (e.g. individuals can show kindness and understanding, businesses can treat and pay people fairly, governments can make sure everyone has a warm home and enough money to cover their needs). Gather ideas for a class mind-map.

## Activity 3: Research & PowerPoint (30+ mins)

In small groups, ask pupils to prepare a PowerPoint presentation about child poverty. Focus on answering specific questions:

- What are the main problems caused by poverty?
- Do these problems conflict with any of the children's human rights? Which ones? In what way?
- Are there any organisations trying to help? How?



#ChallengePoverty #AyeWeCan

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## Plenary (time dependent on length of pupil presentations)

Invite pupil groups to share their presentations with the class. Choose pupils from the 'audience' to tell something that they have learned from the presentations.

Revisit the key points:

- Some people in Scotland have less than others.
- Poverty can affect all aspects of a person's life and health.
- Acting with kindness and compassion towards others can have a positive impact on society.

**Please use #challengepoverty when sharing any activities on social media.**

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## Facts and figures sheet for teachers

### Poverty in Scotland: Facts and figures

- Over 1 million people in Scotland are living in poverty, including 240,000 children.
- An estimated 65% of children living in poverty in Scotland live in working households.
- Around 20% of workers in Scotland are paid less than the real Living Wage.
- Women, disabled people and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are at increased risk of experiencing poverty.

### What is Challenge Poverty Week?

Challenge Poverty Week runs from 7th – 13th October. It is a week of activities and events that provides everyone across Scotland with the opportunity to raise their voices against poverty and show what needs to be done to tackle poverty across Scotland.

The aims of Challenge Poverty Week are to:

- Show the reality of poverty in Scotland and challenge stereotypes
- Highlight and showcase the solutions to poverty
- Increase public support for the action to solve poverty

### What is poverty?

Poverty means not being able to cover your rent, pay your bills or buy the essentials that we all need. It means living an uncertain and insecure life and being forced into impossible decisions about money. It means facing barriers to getting your voice heard in society and can mean being stigmatised for having less than others. It can mean that people are deprived from the opportunities open to others and can prevent them from playing a full part in society.

### How many people are living in poverty in Scotland?

Over 1 million people are living in the grip of poverty in Scotland, including 240,000 (around 1 in 4) children.

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The number of people living in poverty in Scotland is projected to increase in the coming years, with some figures suggesting that the equivalent of one classroom of children (25 children) will be pulled into poverty each day in the years up until 2024.

## Why are so many people in Scotland living in poverty?

Poverty has increased in Scotland – and across the UK – in recent years. This has been due to cuts in social security, low and stagnating wages, and rising living costs.

## How can poverty in Scotland be solved?

Poverty can be solved by boosting incomes (through ensuring all workers are paid at least the real Living Wage and through investing more in social security) and by reducing costs like housing, childcare and transport.

