

Poverty in Education and Actions for Solidarity



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Welcome!

- Introductions
- Aims of the workshop
- Group agreement



Outcomes

By the end of this session, we hope you will have a deeper understanding of:

- ✓ The scale of child poverty in Scotland
- ✓ How poverty is manifesting in education
- ✓ The role education plays in mitigating poverty.
- ✓ The EIS PACT Programme & Child Poverty Guidance
- ✓ Strategies for solidarity and action against child poverty in education



Activity 1

Using sticky note 1:

- ✓ Write down words you associate with poverty.

Using sticky note 2:

- ✓ Write down how poverty might/is impacting young people in education.



Add your sticky notes to the map of Scotland...



Whilst there will be areas impacted more deeply by poverty than others, there are pockets of poverty everywhere in Scotland. Scotland is a rich nation but unfortunately has unacceptably high levels of poverty.

Poverty must be a priority for every local authority and school – irrespective of where you live.

**How can there be
so much wealth
but so much
poverty?**



Contextualising Child Poverty in Scotland

- Despite living in one of the wealthiest nations in the world – child poverty is of deep concern across the whole UK and Ireland.
- Child poverty levels are deepening. Poverty is a violation of children and young people's rights
- Scotland has a Child Poverty (Scotland) Act which places a legal responsibility upon the Scottish Government to significantly reduce child poverty.
- The first minister, John Swinney, has declared that eradicating child poverty is his number one priority.

Educational establishments and teachers alone will never resolve poverty, but we have an imperative role to play.



Contextualising Child Poverty in Scotland

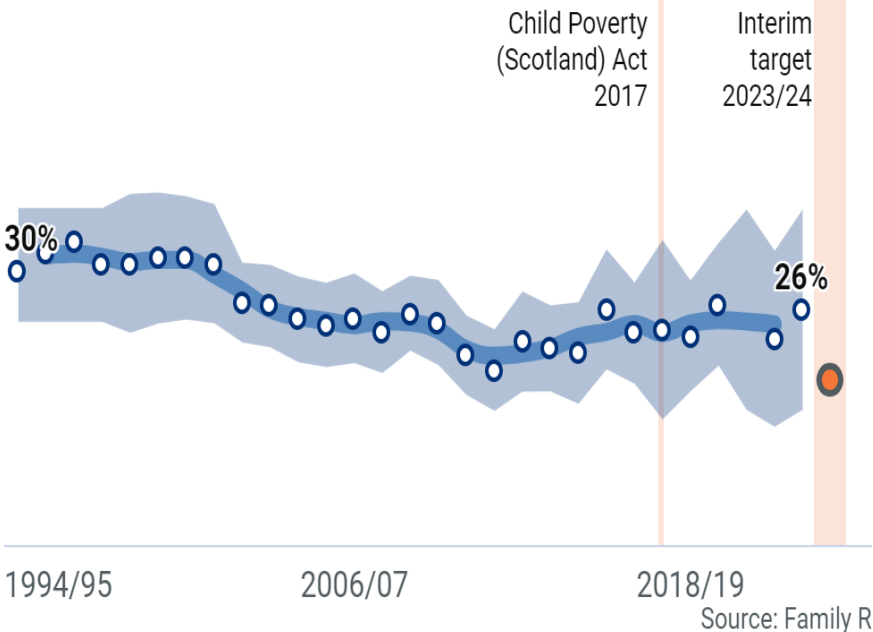
Can anyone tell us how many children they think are living in poverty today in Scotland?



Rising Poverty Levels

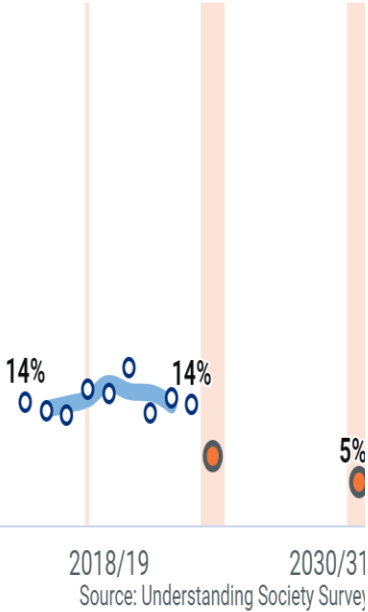
Relative poverty

Measures low income relative to the rest of society



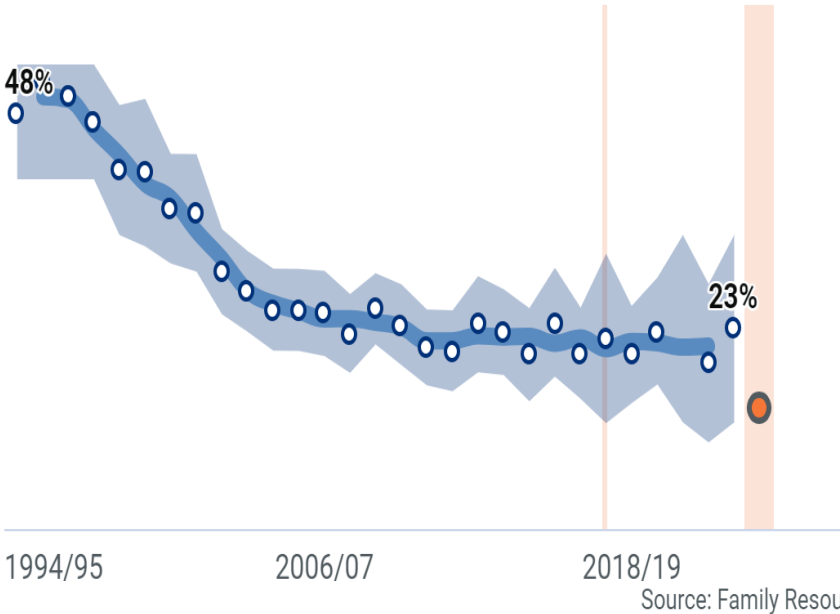
Persistent poverty

Measures if in poverty for several years



Absolute poverty

Measures low living standards relative to 2010/11



Poverty levels were decreasing however over the past number of years these have been increasing in Scotland or remained 'stable'. The economic shocks of COVID and the cost-of-living crisis are ongoing.



How Much Child Poverty in Scotland?

- Over one million people in Scotland are living in poverty – a quarter of which are children.
- 260,000 children - the equivalent of over 11,000 Scottish primary school classes - were trapped in relative poverty in Scotland in the last year.
- More than 1 in 4 children are living in poverty in Scotland. In more deprived areas this is at least 1 in 3.

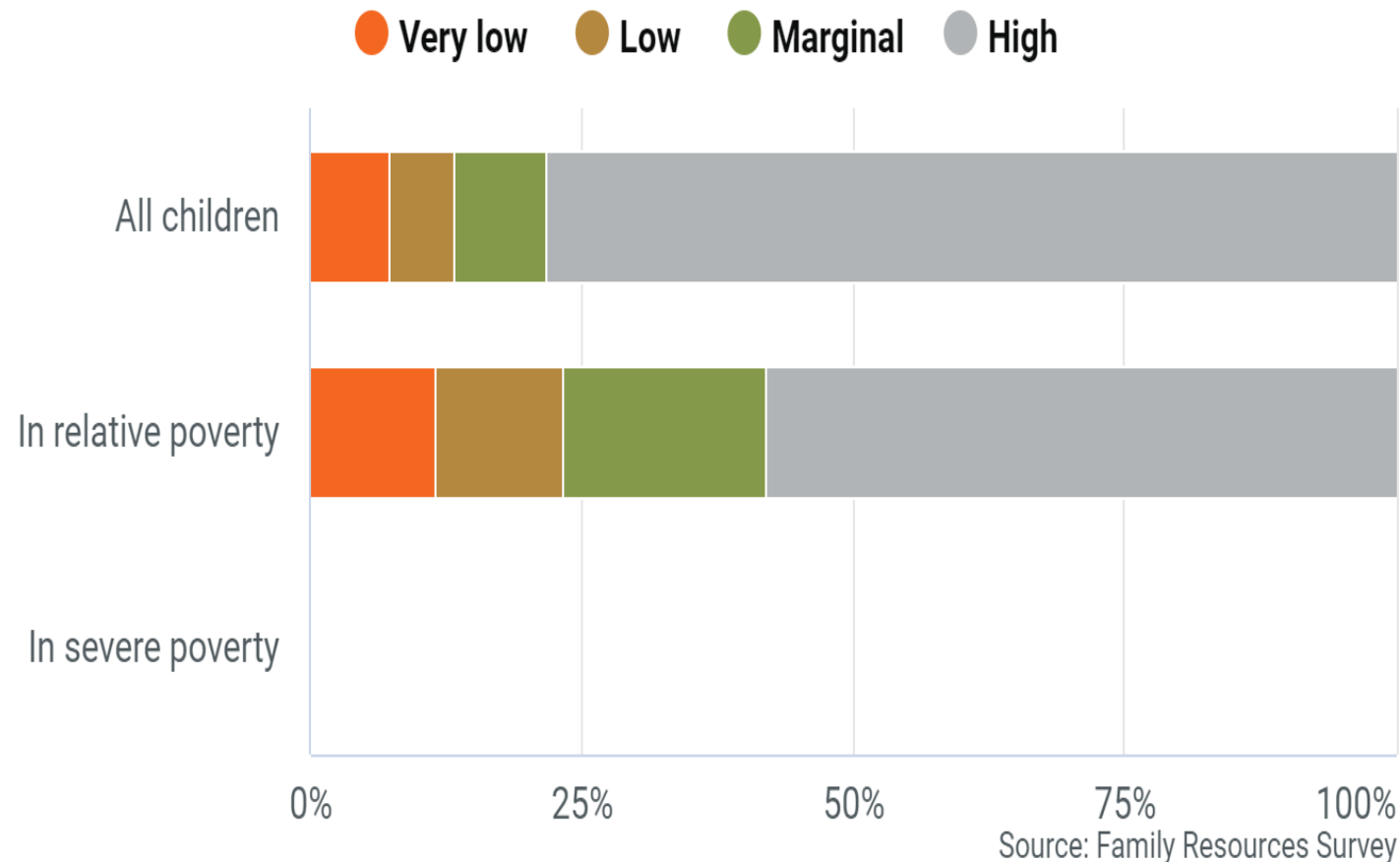
- More than two-thirds of children in poverty live in working households.
- In the last year, 1 million children in Scotland experienced destitution.
- 20% of children experiencing poverty in Scotland are currently missing out on free school meals under current eligibility criteria.



Rising Poverty Levels

Figure 8: Children in poverty often live in households that lack food security

Levels of food security of all children and those in poverty after housing costs, Scotland 2020-23



Many families find themselves living in poverty following basic housing costs. Food insecurity is a significant problem in Scotland.

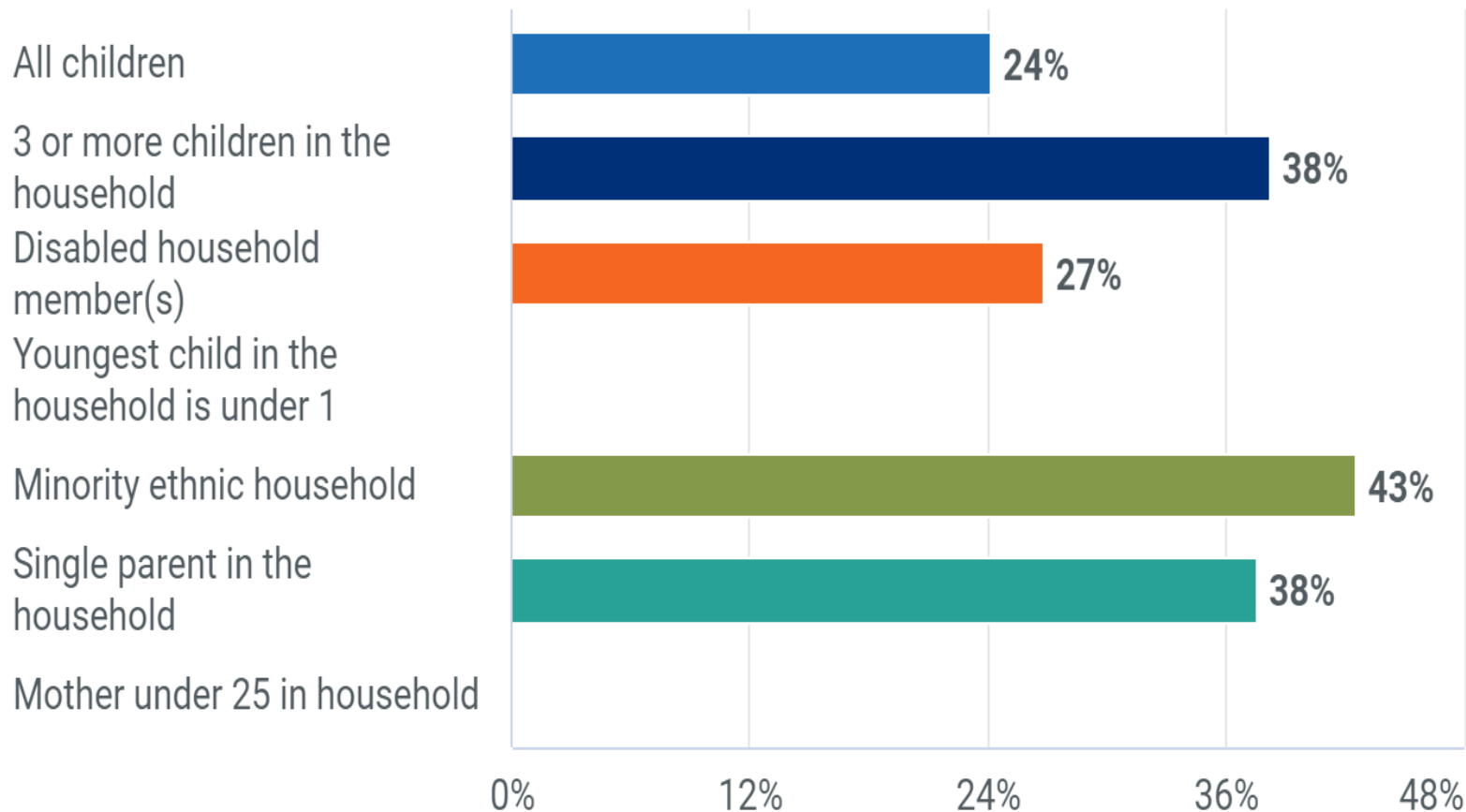
Many working families are turning to food banks or making tough decisions regularly to eat or heat their homes.



Poverty & Intersectionality

Figure 9: Children in some priority groups have a higher risk of being in relative poverty

Proportion of children in relative poverty after housing cost, Scotland 2020-23



Source: Family Resources Survey

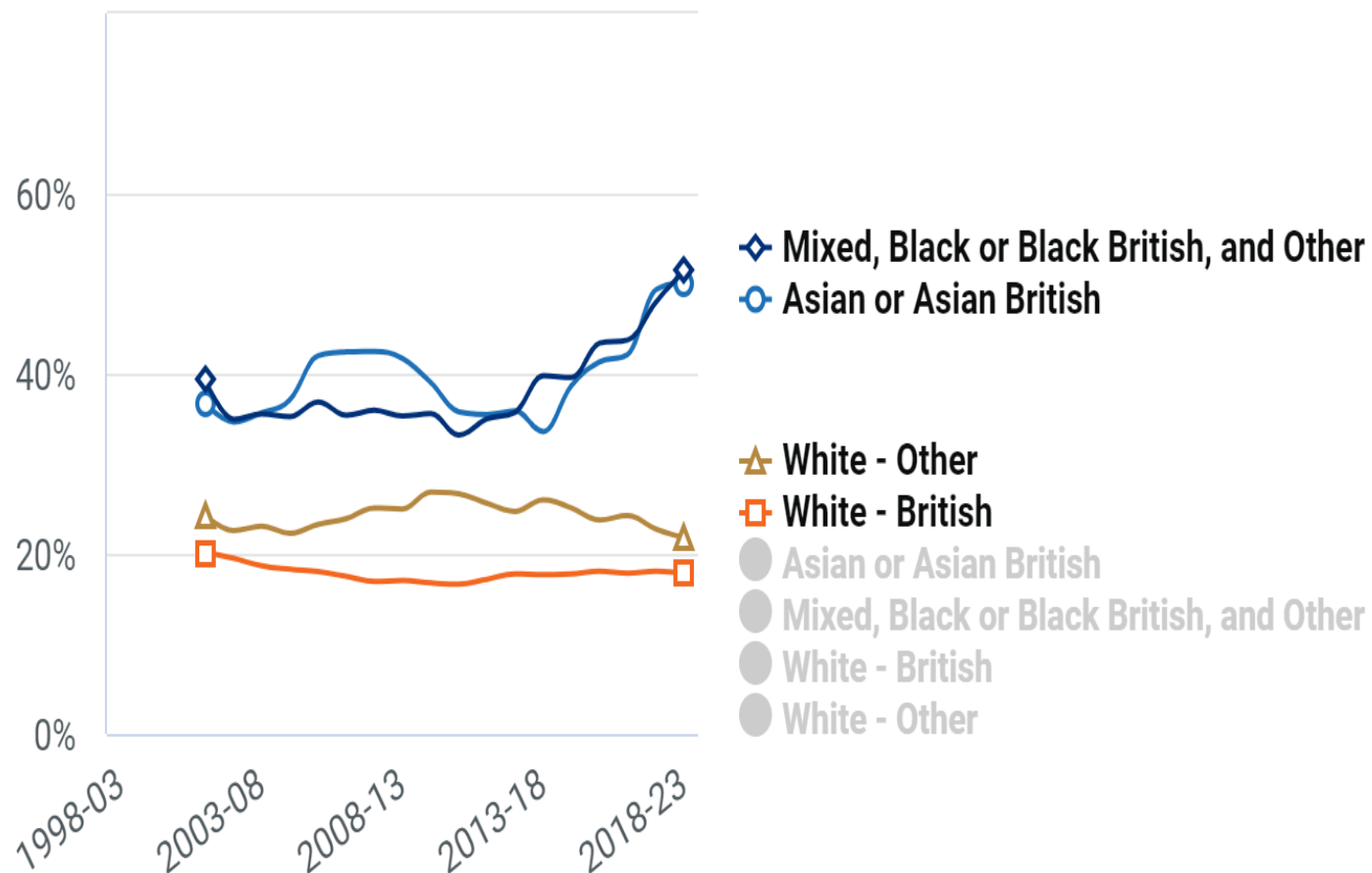
Some groups are at higher risk of experiencing and being trapped in poverty



Poverty & Intersectionality

Figure 26: Relative poverty rates higher for ethnic minorities

Proportion of people in relative poverty after housing costs, Scotland 2018-23



Some groups are at higher risk of experiencing and being trapped in poverty

Source: Family Resources Survey



Poverty & Intersectionality

Figure 5b: More than two thirds of children in poverty live in working households

Share of children in relative poverty after housing costs who live in working households, Scotland



Source: Family Resources Survey

Work is not the route out of poverty for many people. Wages have stagnated. Many people are working multiple jobs to survive.

In-work poverty is a real and worrying issue.



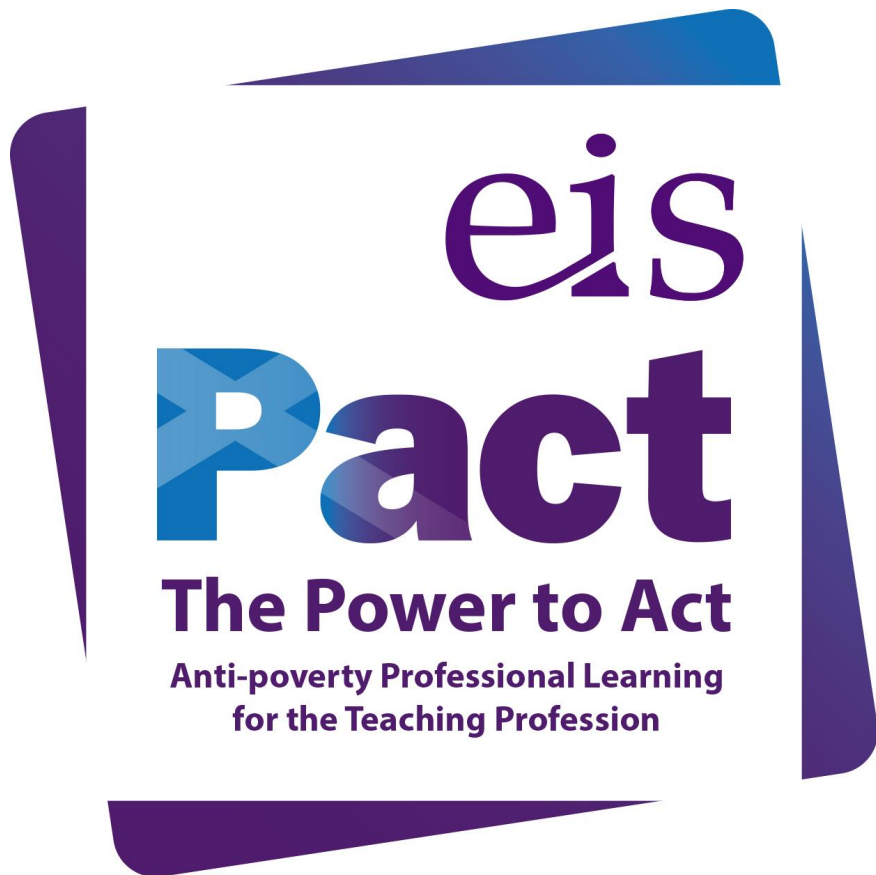
Poverty & Intersectionality: Women



Poverty in Scotland



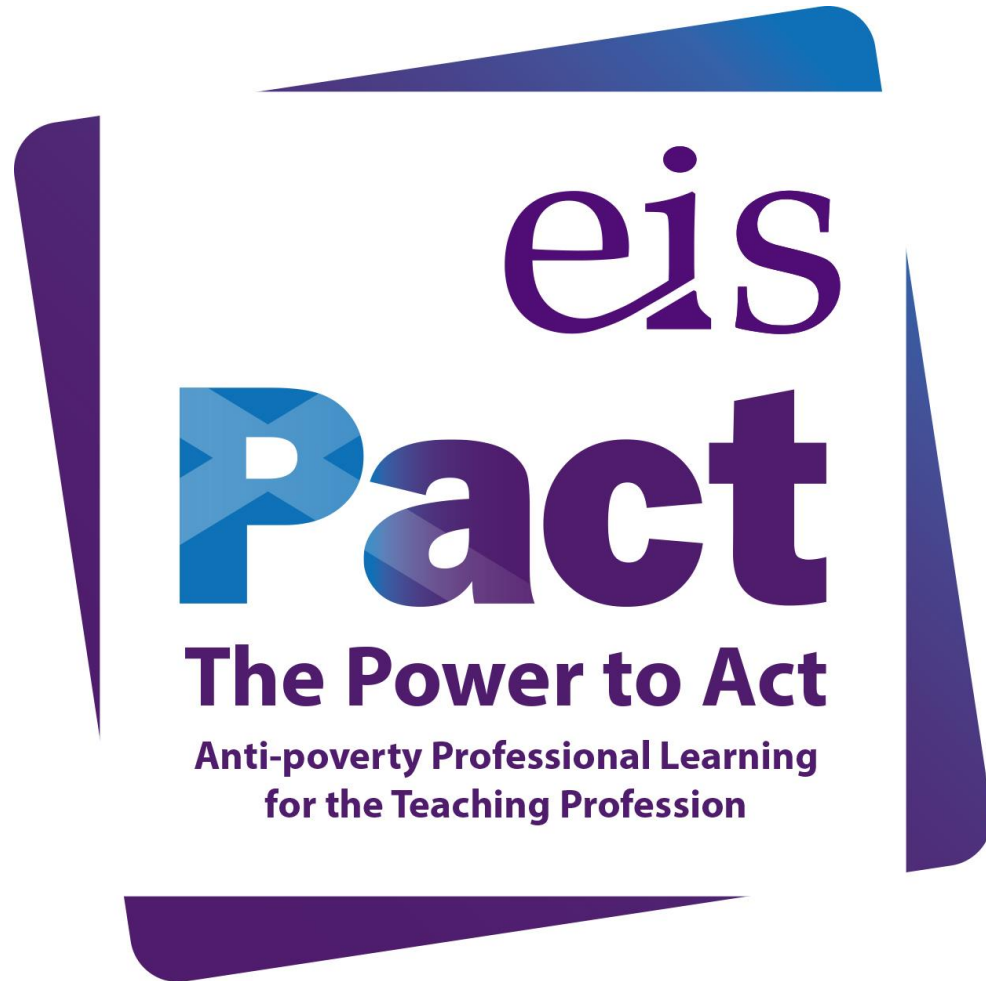
Case Study Example



Christina Fleming,
EIS PACTivist



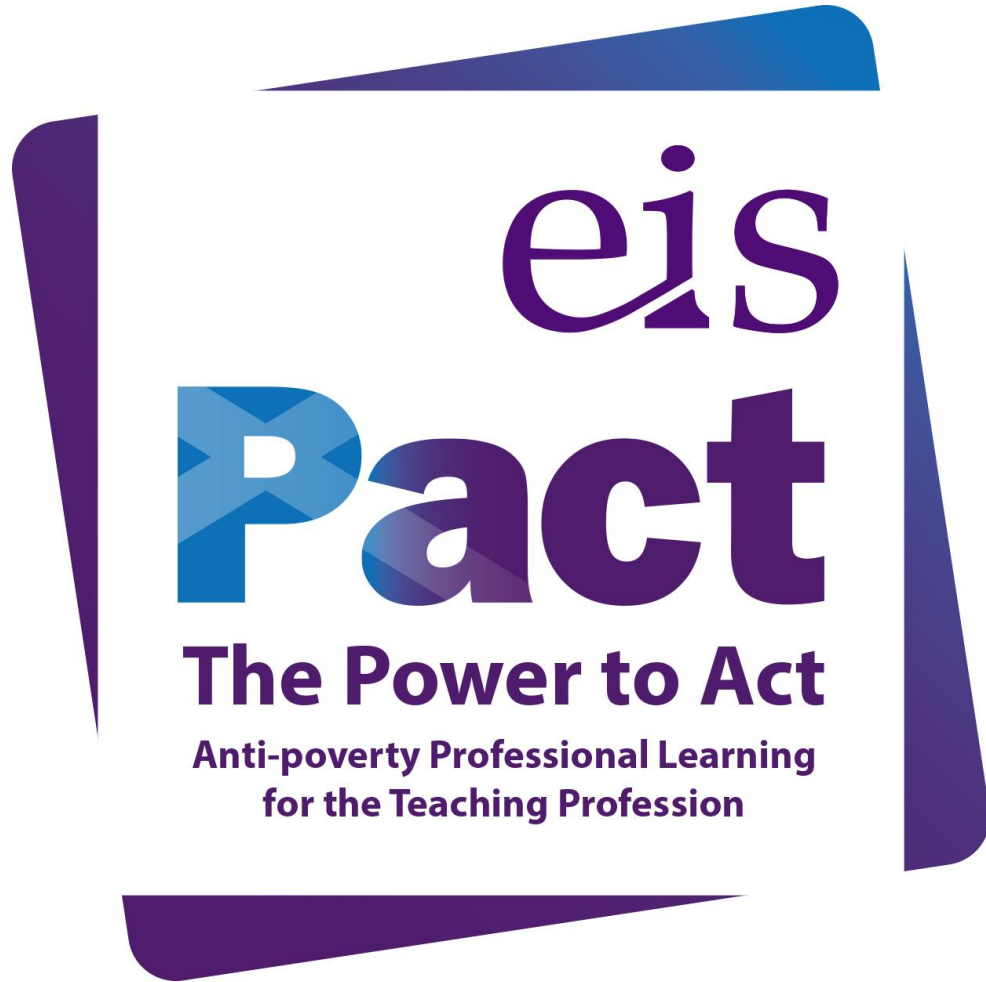
EIS PACT Programme



Anti-poverty professional learning programme aims to engage, equip, and empower educators to have a deeper understanding of the nature, causes, and consequences of poverty in Scotland; its impacts on education; and what action schools can take to alleviate poverty.



How can we help?



- Free school meals
- Supermarket donations
- Joint working with other schools
- Building relationships with local council and DoE.



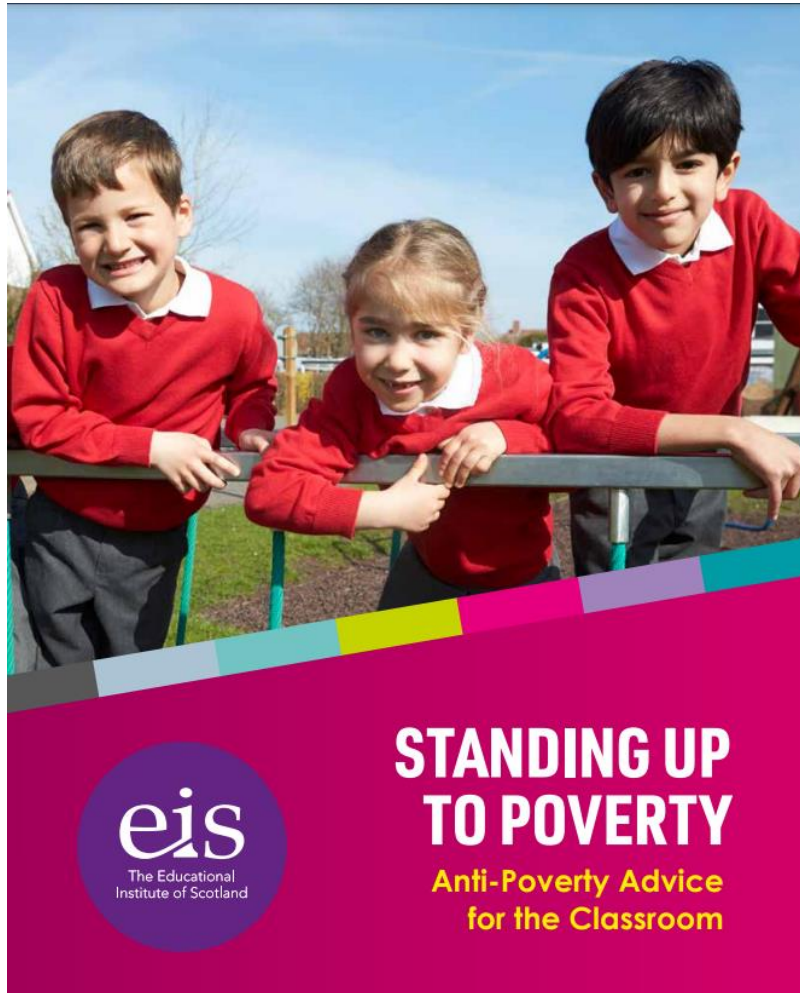
Poverty & Teacher Solidarity

Group discussion

1. Are you aware of any existing initiatives in your school to alleviate poverty?
2. What barriers exist for schools/colleges/universities in reducing the impacts of poverty in education?
3. How can we build collective solidarity as EIS members and educators to tackling poverty?



EIS Child Poverty Guidance



EIS Child Poverty Guidance

Please get involved in our anti-poverty work and build our collective solidarity

