



Parents shouldn't have to endure sleepless nights worrying about how they will meet the cost of kitting out their children for school. Children shouldn't have to face bullying or exclusion because their parents can't afford the right uniform or pay for expensive residential trips. Adding Up, the Citizens Advice campaign on education costs is your chance to make a real difference to the lives of those experiencing social and financial exclusion in your community.

The campaign objectives are:

- to encourage schools to adopt the best practice initiatives on uniforms, specialist equipment and school trips as outlined in government guidance
- to lobby local and central government for the widespread availability of school uniform grants so that financial assistance is made available and effectively promoted to those in need
- to press for the guidance and good practice that exists to be made enforceable through law and effectively regulated by the appropriate body.

The Government has a commitment of ending child poverty and improving educational attainment. For the vast majority of children, securing a decent education is a critical factor in determining success in adult life. Yet for a whole host of reasons, children from low income families are less likely to flourish at school. Research has found that for these children, their experience of school can be divisive and contribute to exclusion.

The high costs associated with attending school can have a severe impact on low income families. Families can face hardship and children are at risk of exclusion if they are not in the correct uniform or unable to afford to participate in activities and trips. In 2005 Citizens Advice, children's charities, and the National Union of Teachers formed a coalition to continue to highlight the broader costs associated with attending school.

In February 2007 a new Department for Education and Skills (DfES), now Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), School Admissions Code came into force in England. For the first time the Code makes clear reference to the importance of limiting the costs of school uniform and trips. This will provide advice on ways to reduce the cost of school uniform.

To help raise awareness, print a [Campaign postcard](#) and take it to your child's school. These are also available to collect from your nearest CAB

For more details go to the Citizens Advice Adding Up Campaign page:

[http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/campaigns/current\\_campaigns/addingupcampaign.htm](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/campaigns/current_campaigns/addingupcampaign.htm).

