



STAND FOR CHANGE DIGITAL ASSEMBLY TEACHERS PACK

CONTEXT

This digital assembly was created by The Trussell Trust's youth participation group, Stand for Change: Young People Against Poverty, who are using their lived experience of financial hardship to build understanding about the causes and impacts of poverty, and encourage more people to stand for change and end the need for foodbanks.

When talking about their experiences of financial hardship, many of the Stand for Change young people recognised school as a place where they felt this hardship most sharply. They reported feeling stigmatised and unsupported during the school day, and wanted to create a resource that would help educators to better support young people in similar positions to them. This digital assembly is based on the educational resource that Stand for Change created and is designed to start conversations in classrooms across the UK to start breaking down the barriers, stereotypes and stigma that young people facing financial hardship often experience.

You can find the educational resource [here](#).

PURPOSE/LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This digital assembly will help schools to:

- establish a better understanding of the challenges young people in poverty face during the school day and how it can limit their full participation of the school experience.
- destigmatise the impact of poverty in schools by encouraging open conversations that will work towards stopping harmful stereotypes associated with poverty and financial hardship.
- support young people and teachers to better identify signs of poverty and ways that they can support those experiencing hardship.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

We recognise that it can be difficult to start conversations about financial hardship and poverty. However, research tells us that, when asked about what affects their personal views of poverty, 26% of young people identified that they learnt about poverty from their teachers at school or collegeⁱ. That's why we've created this digital assembly and educational resource, so that schools can start to have more conversations about the impact of poverty and financial hardship which, in turn, will help to improve understanding and empathy. Below are some conversation starters to help get you started – good luck!

General questions

- What do you think of when you hear the word 'poverty' or 'financial hardship'?
- What is the impact of poverty and financial hardship on young people?
- Do you think that the impact of poverty and financial hardship are well known across schools? If not, what can be done to improve this?
- In your opinion, what can be done to support young people that are experiencing poverty and financial hardship?
- How would you support a friend that is experiencing poverty or financial hardship?
- What changes would you make?

Questions about the video

- In one word, can you describe how the young people in the animation felt about their day at school?
- How do you think the young people felt when their school started to better support them?
- If you were headteacher for a day, what change would you bring about to better support young people facing poverty and financial hardship?

Questions about the educational resource

- How would you implement the use of this educational resource in your school?
- Looking at pages 12 and 13 of the educational resource, pick one example and think about how you would support a friend going through that experience.
- Look at pages 16 onwards about 'solutions', can you think about solutions you could implement in your school to help those experiencing poverty and financial hardship?

Thank you for watching the digital assembly and reading the educational resource – for further information and support go to www.trusselltrust.org/youth-participation.

ⁱ [youth-perceptions-of-poverty-in-the-UK-report.pdf \(trusselltrust.org\)](http://www.trusselltrust.org/youth-perceptions-of-poverty-in-the-UK-report.pdf)