

"I like school but sometimes it is just too hard to get up in the mornings...



...and I would rather stay in bed and watch the telly - especially when it's a cold day.

Anyway it is embarrassing if I have to go in without the proper uniform on, and I only have one set - I'm not going if I look mucky...sometimes my mum forgets to put it in the wash.

Anyway the teachers get on at me and it shows me up in front of the others ...where's your homework Shireen?...where's your P.E kit Shireen...Why weren't you in school yesterday Shireen?...you see my mum doesn't like writing the letters when I have been off, so I get all the questions.

I did feel really bad this year when all the others in my class got to go to the adventure park and I didn't, but it was ok because my friend Natasha didn't go either so we just went around to her house for the day and watched telly.

I love music and dancing and there is a street dance class that goes on at the community centre on a Thursday...me and my friends sometimes watch through the window...it looks great and the woman asked me if I wanted to come in but I didn't. If my mum had the money she would let me go...I know she would.

I don't want to ask for too many things anyway because I don't want to stress my mum. Sometimes when I ask for things she gets cross ...not with me but with my dad for not having a proper job...I just don't ask because it causes arguments...

sometimes I can hear them arguing
when they think I am asleep.

I love going round to my friends for tea because they all sit down together for a meal and we don't do that at home. I wish I could have them back over to my house sometimes but it is embarrassing...my mum usually forgets that they are coming...the house is a mess and we end up going for some chips instead..."

Shireen Evan's story

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