

BY JOAN SALMON

Schools have amazing ways of dealing with children upkeep. From allowing both 'grab' and pocket money, to only entertaining pocket money, the options vary from school to school.

This millennial loved the mix of 'grab' and pocket money because a term where the constant was availability of posho and beans riddled with weevils would make the period depressing. Imagine having no money to buy that

When pocket money becomes a dividing line

breakfast snack?

Ahh, the stomach would growl long before 10am. Then, staring at others during break time would be another pain.

But for those schools where pocket money rules the world, is there a threshold? Imagine this child from a well-to-do family who receives all he ever asks for, including upkeep of over

Shs1 million in the same class with one whose school fees is yet to be paid.

"The school meals are sufficient," their parent would say, should they dare ask. Such scenarios are a breeding ground for comparison with others, jealousy and theft.

For the love of all, can there be a cap on how much upkeep a student bring too school?

Do you remember those days where parents deposited the money with the school bursar and the child was only allowed to get a specific amount for the week?

Dear parent, I know you want your child to have it all, but empathy asks that you spare the child. But more importantly, why do you take your child to a school where even school fees is an

uphill task?

You want them to have better acquaintances, I hear you. But what about the inadequacy battle this child will fight all their life? Your child does not have to struggle with insecurities because you want to tick the box of taking them to a prestigious school. It is okay to cut your coat according to your cloth.