



# School Costs 2017 Summary

## Background

In total, 1,834 parents completed the Barnardos School Costs Survey 2017. The majority of respondents (1,181) had children in primary school, while the remaining 640 respondents' children attend secondary school

Average costs	Senior Infants pupil	4 <sup>th</sup> Class pupil	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Pupil
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>
Clothing	€95	€105	€190
Footwear	€45	€45	€70
School Books	€70	€85	€275
Stationery	€25	€30	€55
Classroom resources	€40	€45	€60
Voluntary contribution	€80	€85	€150
<b>Total*</b>	<b>€355</b>	<b>€395</b>	<b>€800</b>
<b>Total * in 2016</b>	<b>€340</b>	<b>€395</b>	<b>€775</b>
Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance	€125	€125	€250



The State should be providing all that is needed in order for a school to function successfully instead of making the school go to the parents.

Parent

#SchoolCosts

## Uniforms

The majority of parents have to provide a school uniform for their child.

**Primary:** 72% of parents must buy a school specific uniform.

**Secondary:** 95% of parents must buy a school specific uniform.

A plain, non-crested uniform can be bought in only 14% of primary schools and only 1% in secondary schools. The remainder of parents' children do not wear a school uniform.

A large proportion of parents have stated that the costs of uniforms have stayed the same (**Primary:** 54%; **Secondary:** 45%). But many parents stated that the costs have increased (**Primary:** 39%; **Secondary:** 45%).

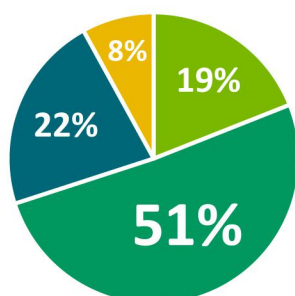
Three-quarters of **primary** parents (75%) spend between €51 and €150 on school uniforms. Just 9% spend less than €50 while 15% pay in excess of €150.

For **secondary** school parents, over one-quarter (27%) are spending between €200 and €300 on uniforms. Overall, almost half (48%) of **secondary** parents are spending between €126 and €225 on uniforms.



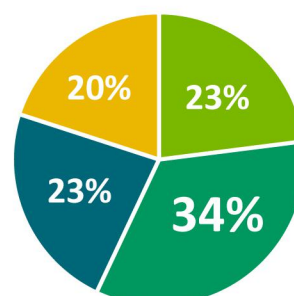
## School books

Cost of Primary School Books



■ €0-€50 ■ €51-€100 ■ €101-€150 ■ €151 and over

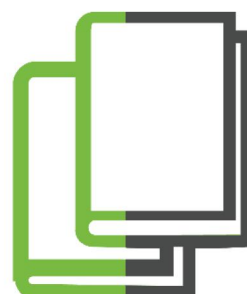
Cost of Secondary School Books



■ €0-€100 ■ €101-€200 ■ €201-€300 ■ €301 and over

71% of **primary** school parents (compared to 70% in 2016) have access to a school book rental scheme. 56% of those with access to a school book rental scheme pay €50 or less. A further fifth (19%) pay between €51 and €75.

37% of **secondary** school parents (compared to 39% in 2016) have access to a school book rental scheme. 48% contribute €100 or less to avail of the book rental scheme.



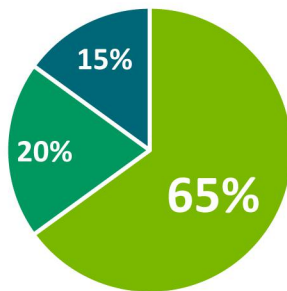
## Voluntary Contribution

**Primary:** 56% of parents are asked for a voluntary contribution down from 66% in 2016.

**Secondary:** 69% of secondary school parents are asked for voluntary contribution down from 79% in 2016.

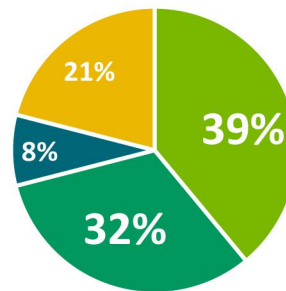


Voluntary Contribution - Primary School



■ €0-€100 ■ €100-€150 ■ €151 and over

Voluntary Contribution - Secondary School

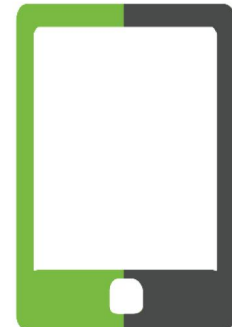


■ €0-€100 ■ €100-€150 ■ €151 - €200 ■ €201 and over

## Digital

14% of **primary** school parents say their child use a tablet or laptop in school (12% in 2016). Of these, 92% stated that it is provided by the school and for 86% the school also provides the software.

23% of **secondary** school parents say their child use a tablet or laptop (23% in 2016). In contrast to those in **primary**, 20% said the device was provided by the school. For almost half, 49%, the school organises the device but parents pay for it. Just 26% states the school provides the software.



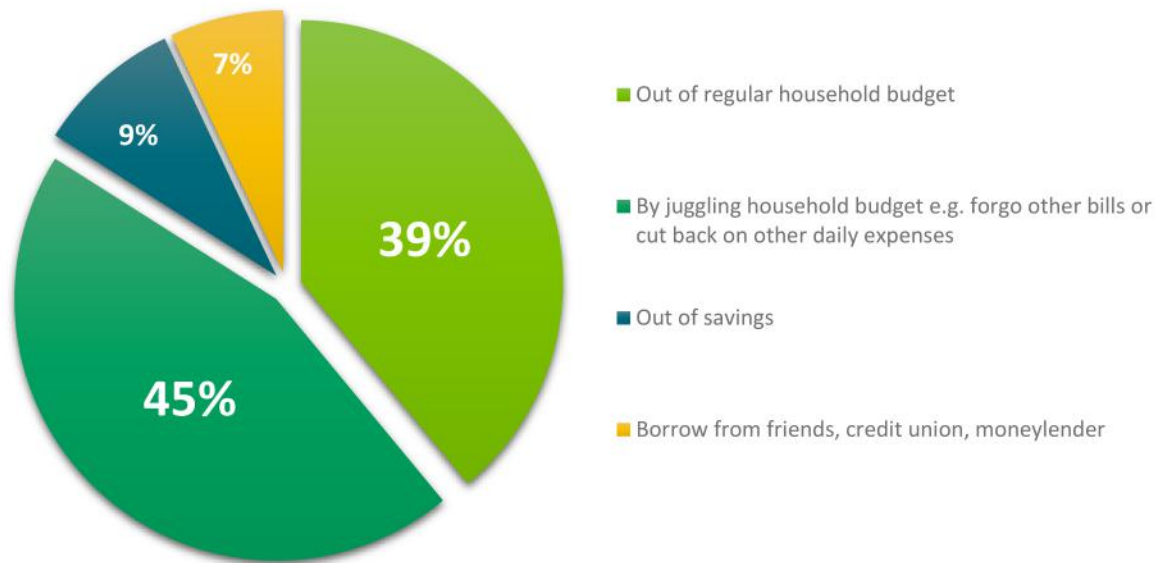
## Classroom Costs

**Primary:** 83% of parents pay a classroom resource fee to cover photocopying / art supplies etc (up from 72% in 2016).

**Secondary:** 76% of parents pay a classroom resource fees to cover photocopying / art supplies etc (up from 71% of parents in 2016).



## Impact of Costs on Parents



## Recommendations

- Uphold a child's constitutional right to free primary education by committing in Budget 2018 to invest an extra €103.2m annually to make it reality for all children, this can be phased in over a three year period beginning with investing the €20m to provide free school books for all.
- Commit to investing €126.9m annually to make secondary education free for all children once free primary education has been achieved.
- Ensure school Boards of Management adhere to the Department of Education circular re school uniform policy and take tangible measures to reduce the costs for parents.
- Restore the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance back to the 2010 rates of €200 for a primary school pupil and €305 for a secondary school pupil. This can be introduced incrementally with a first phase increase of €50 per child at a cost of €14m in Budget 2018.
- Synchronise the income thresholds so all family types and all those in receipt of Family Income Supplement are eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance.
- Follow the EU Commission proposal to synchronise tax regimes on digital and print materials by applying a 0% to e-textbooks.

For a full report, infographic and more visit  
[www.barnardos.ie/SchoolCosts17](http://www.barnardos.ie/SchoolCosts17)