

2011 School Costs Survey Results

Barnardos surveyed over 500 parents on the cost of sending their children to school. Some of the key findings from our survey are represented below.

Barnardos will use this information to lobby the Government on making school more affordable for all.

Costs shown are averages.

Average cost of essential school items:



A majority of parents taking the survey said that book and uniform costs had increased since last year. Most respondents also have to pay for materials (such as photocopying), activities and a voluntary contribution.

% of schools that require a uniform with school crest:



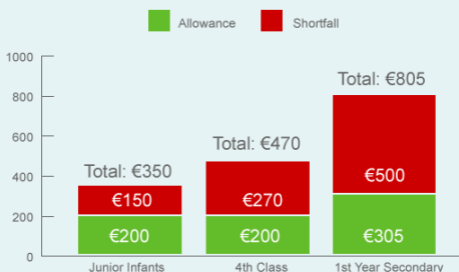
School crests significantly add to the cost of uniforms as parents are forced to go to specialist retailers and cannot buy certain items in high street stores. School-specific jumpers can cost €40-60 while coats and blazers cost over €100.

Families receiving the Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance



The number of children benefiting from the BSCFA has been growing consistently since the onset of the recession, highlighting the growing need for support for families struggling with the costs of education.

Shortfall in the Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance



The rates payable through the BSCFA have remained unchanged since 2007 at €200 for children aged 2 – 11 years and €305 for children aged 12 – 22 years.

% of schools that offer book rental schemes



"The costs of sending a child to school are spiralling out of control, school book rental schemes should be mandatory in every State funded school. It would seem the only ones benefiting from the costs of the school books are the publishers. We are struggling to get by on one wage with no help from anyone, there is no such thing as a 'free education'."

Quote from a parent who completed our survey

Barnardos would like to thank the parents who took the survey and helped us to gather this valuable information.