

## The Cost of School in Ireland

The average costs for sending children to school in 2017 are:



Education in Ireland is supposed to be free, but parents are forced to cover the costs of many elements of their children's education.



### How do parents pay?



Nearly half of all parents have to delay household bills or cut back on daily expenses to afford their child's school costs.

7% of parents are forced to borrow from family, banks and moneylenders.

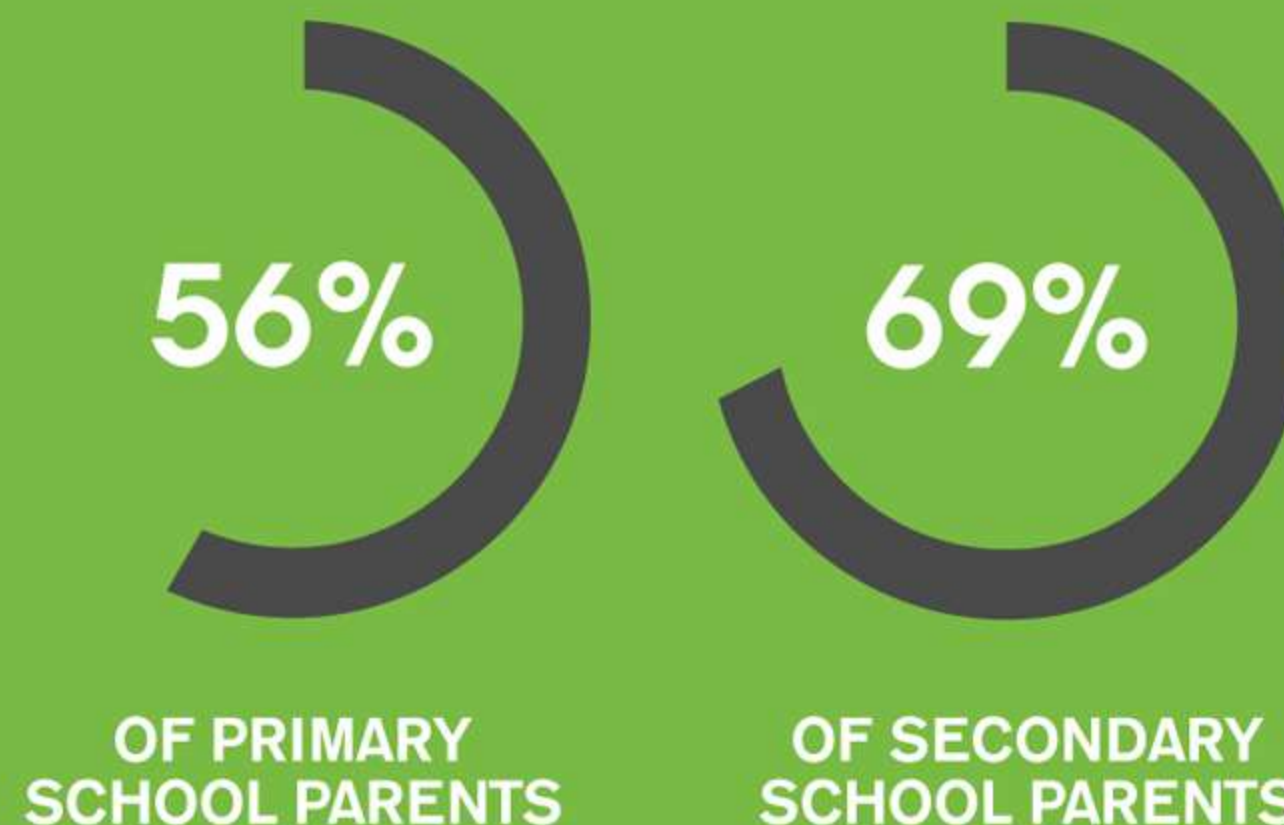


It is always assumed that just lower income families are suffering with these costs, but as a 'middle income' earner I feel crippled by the extent of these back to school costs for three children.

### PARENT'S COMMENT

### Voluntary Contributions

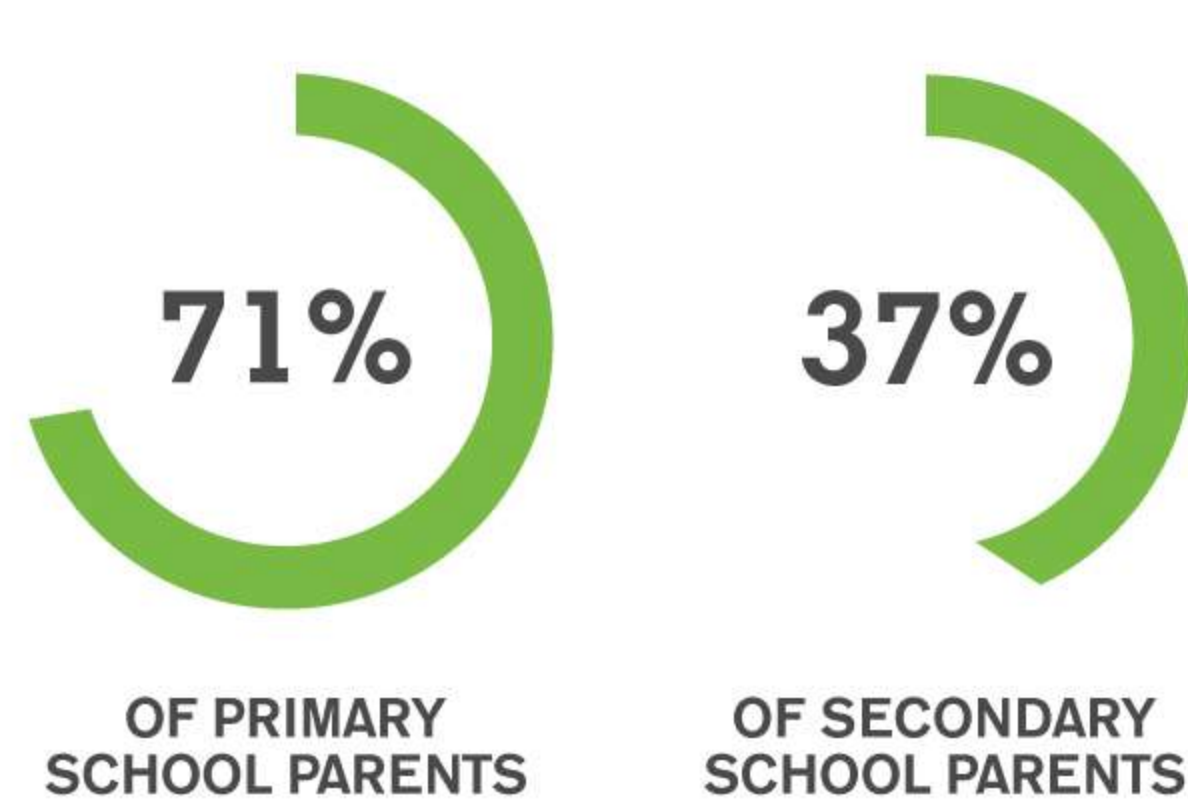
Because of government under-investment in schools, many schools rely on voluntary contributions from parents to fund their costs.



Many schools pursue parents for these charges, sometimes through the children.

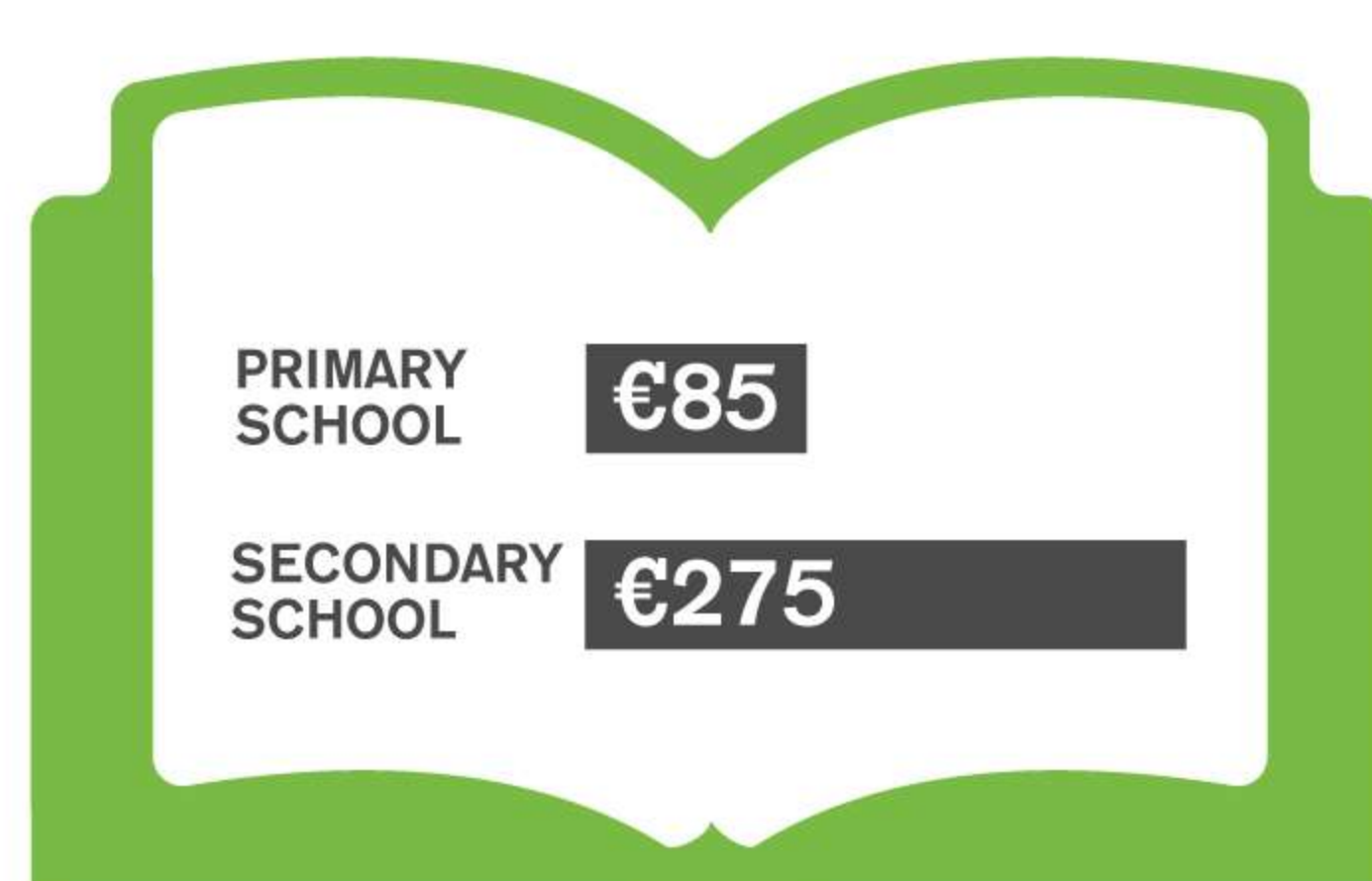


### School Books



Have access to school rental book schemes

### Average Spend on School Books



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'S COMMENT

### School Uniforms

The average cost of a school uniform at primary level is €95 and €190 at secondary level.



Plain uniforms are becoming more common at primary level. 28% of primary schools parents can use them compared to just 5% at secondary level.



### Key Recommendations

Uphold a child's constitutional right to free primary education by investing an extra €103.2m annually to make it a reality for all children.



Restore the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance to the 2010 rates of €200 for a primary school pupil and €305 for a secondary school pupil.