

## Back to School Survey 2022

Carried out in: June/July 2022

Number of respondents: 1132



Do you receive the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance?



Average basic schools costs in 2022



### The Cost of School – Uniforms

How much does your child's primary school uniform cost?



### The Cost of School – Schoolbooks and other fees

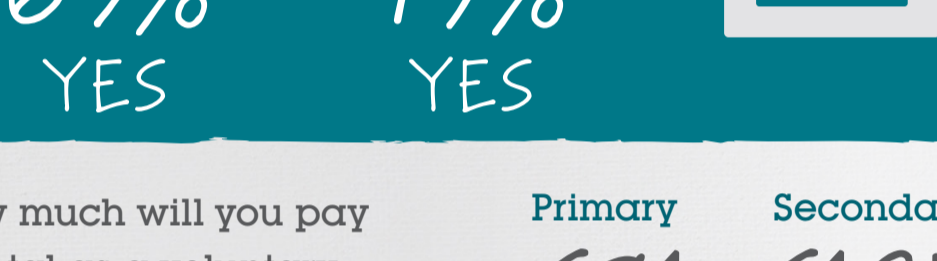
How much do your child's schoolbooks cost in total?



How much do you have to spend on digital tools for your children?



Does your child's school request a voluntary contribution?



How much will you pay in total as a voluntary contribution this school year?



Does the request for a payment feel voluntary? 70% of parents said it does not feel voluntary.



“ Education should be free as it is in other countries. It should start with free schoolbooks and extend to all costs. No child's education should depend on their parents' ability to pay. ”

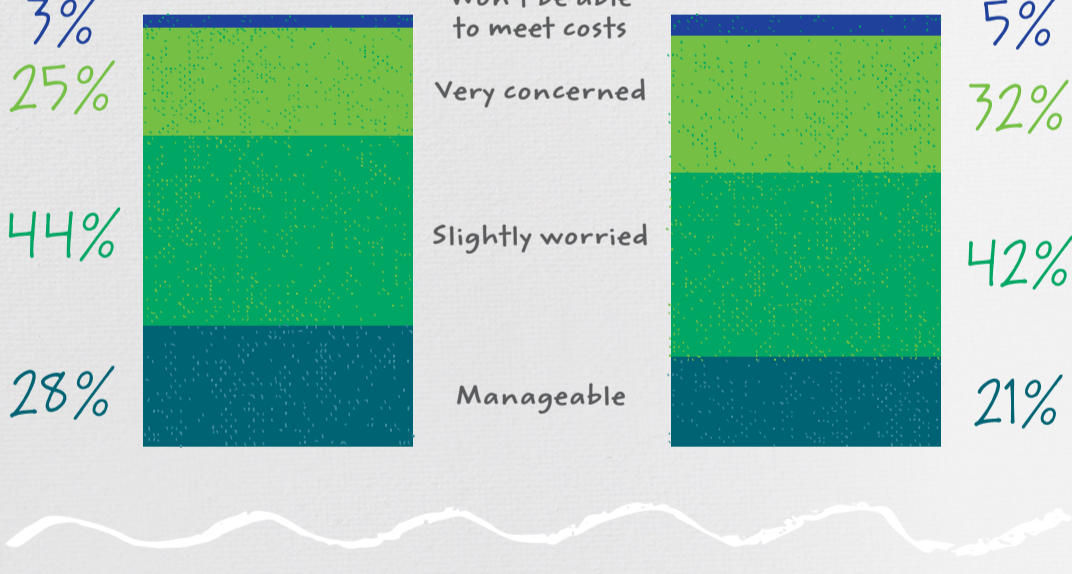
– Primary school parent

### Paying for costs

What is the primary method through which you pay for costs? 24% receive back to school clothing and footwear allowance.

How will you pay for back to school costs	Primary school	Secondary school
Out of normal budget	52%	52%
Juggling their budget	44%	46%
Savings	18%	20%
Borrowing from friends and families	9%	18%
Credit cards	6%	10%
Professional loan	7%	9%

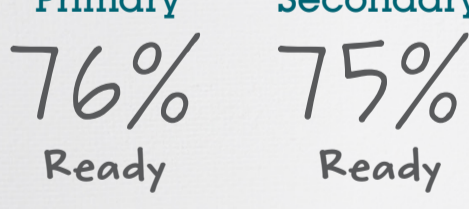
How do you feel in relation to school costs?



### Feeling about returning to school



Do you believe your child is ready to move into a new class/year next year?



When asked if their children had the necessary supports within their school to achieve their full potential 72% of primary and 62% of secondary school parents agreed.

“ We will pay for back to school for primary school by picking items up weekly but with another child in secondary school the only way I can pay for her back to school costs is by a payment plan with school. It's a humiliating way for me to pay for her excessive school costs. ”

– Primary and secondary school parent

### What needs to be done?

Key recommendation from Barnardos

1. Provide free school books
2. Ensure affordable uniforms for all children
3. Maintain back to school allowance increase
4. End voluntary contributions