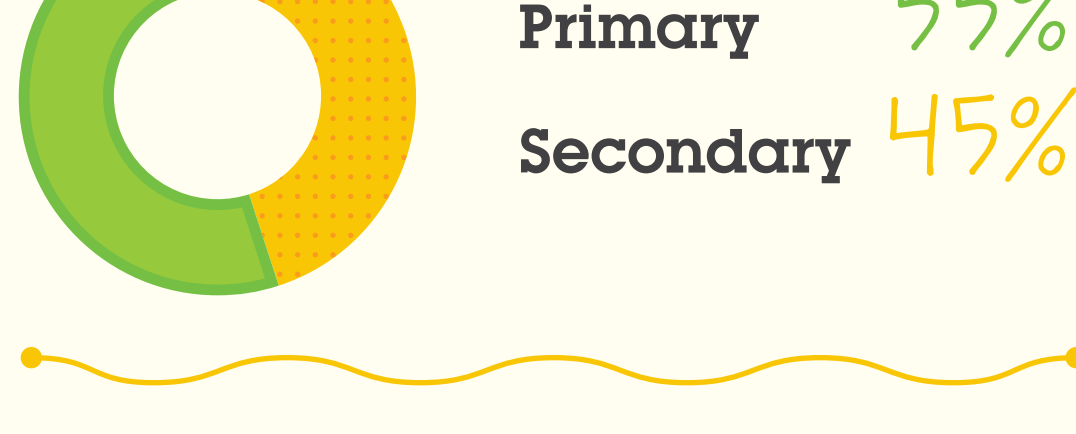


# Back to School Survey 2023

Carried out in: **June/July 2023**

Number of respondents: **1,148**



## Average basic schools costs in 2023

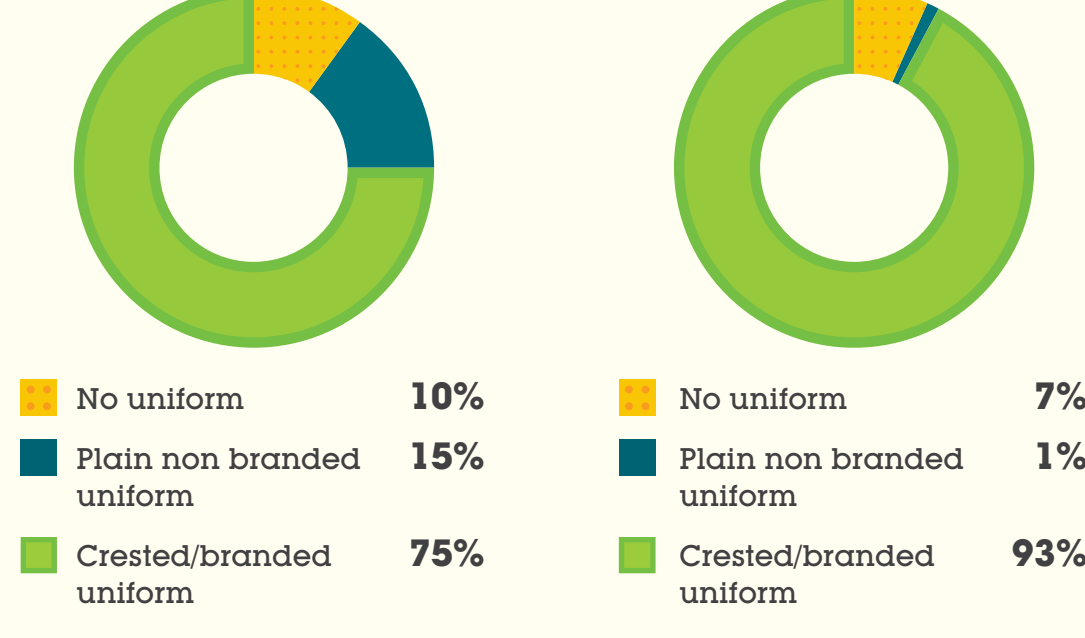


“ School in Ireland is meant to be free but the cost every year is almost impossible to meet and getting more expensive each year. ”

– Secondary school parent

## The Cost of School Uniforms

What type of uniform does your child have?



How much does your child's main school uniform cost? **Primary: €117** **Secondary: €204**

Figures are on average

Parents stated that the primary reason uniforms prove to be so costly is due to being required to purchase crested/branded uniforms.

## The Cost of School Schoolbooks & other fees

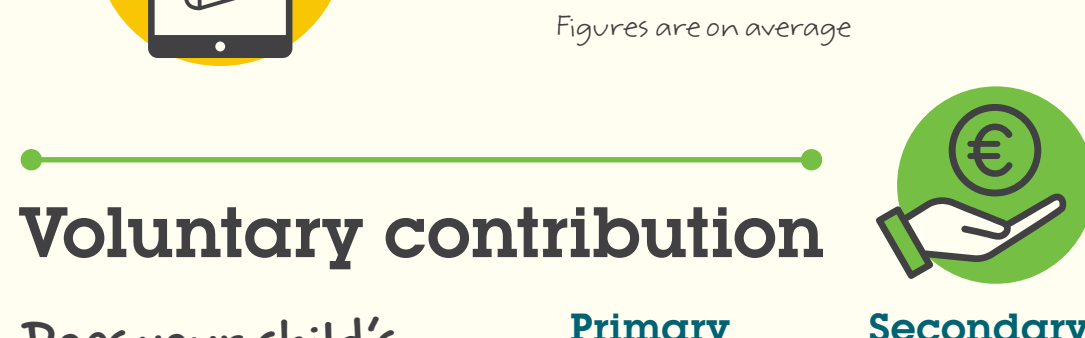
How much do your child's schoolbooks cost in total?



Figures are on average

\*Free primary school book scheme incoming Sept 2023

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



Figures are on average

## Voluntary contribution

Does your child's school request a voluntary contribution? **Primary: 74% YES** **Secondary: 78% YES**

How much will you pay in total as a voluntary contribution this school year? **Primary: €101** **Secondary: €143**

Figures are on average

Does the request for a payment feel voluntary?



67% of parents said it does **NOT** feel voluntary.

“ This year costs will almost break me ”

– Primary school parent

## Paying for Costs

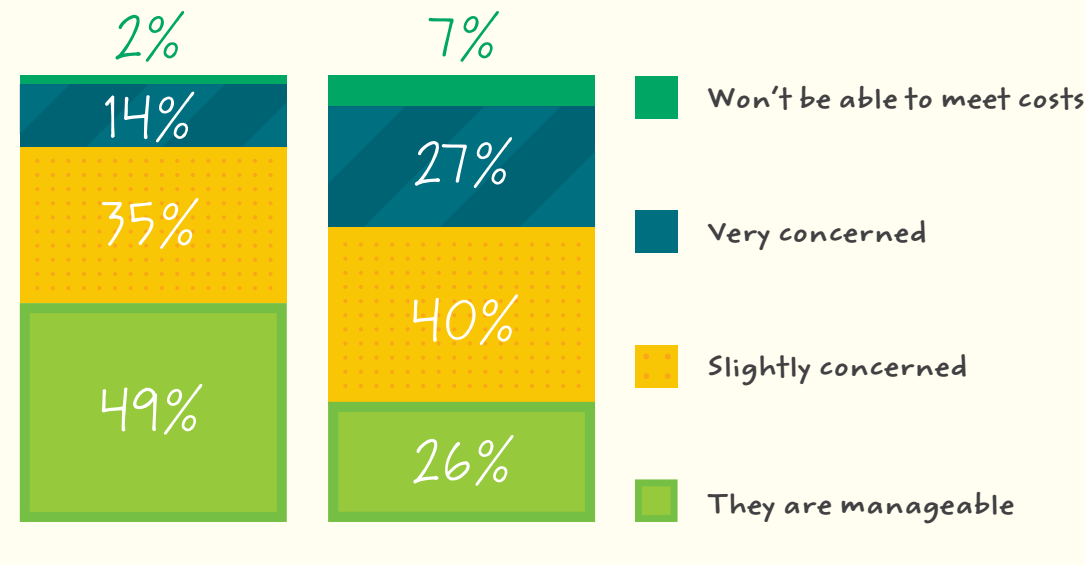
How will you pay for back to school costs this year?

How will you pay for back to school costs	Primary school	Secondary school
Out of normal budget	79%	68%
Savings	20%	25%
Borrowing from friends and families	4%	10%
Credit cards or loan	6%	14%
Back to school allowance and footwear clothing	13%	15%

Some respondents chose more than one option.

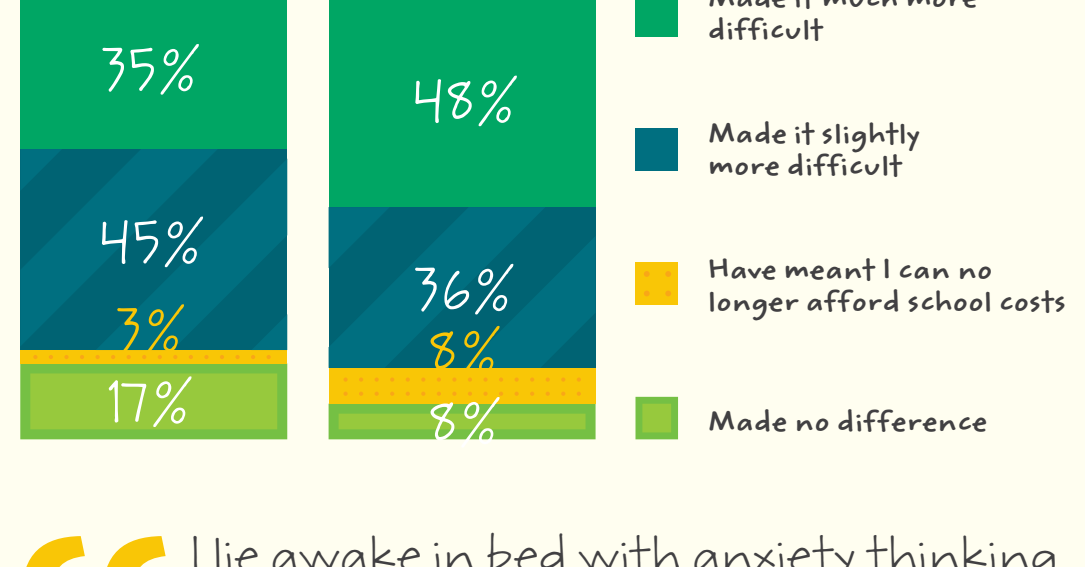
**21% receive back to school clothing and footwear allowance**

How do you feel about meeting back to school costs this year?



## Cost of living

Have recent increases to cost of living made it more difficult to afford back to school costs?



“ I lie awake in bed with anxiety thinking how will we meet the uniform needs along with the grocery bill. We both work, me part time, we have eaten through our savings since January due to the rise in the cost of living for everything. It's a very worrying time in our lives with another child joining primary school in 2024 and wondering how will we cope? ”

– Secondary school parent

## What needs to be done? Key recommendations from Barnardos

1. Extend free schoolbooks to all secondary schools
2. Ensure low-cost uniforms are an option for all children
3. Increase Back to School Footwear and Clothing allowance and extend Child Benefit
4. End voluntary contributions

