



Barnardos School Costs Survey 2015 Factsheet

Background

In total, 1,404 parents completed Barnardos School Costs Survey 2015. The majority of respondents (946) had children attending primary school while the remaining 458 respondents' children were in secondary school.

Average costs	Senior Infants pupil		4 th Class pupil		1 st Year pupil	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Clothing	€110	€100	€120	€115	€200	€195
Footwear	€55	€50	€60	€55	€60	€60
School books	€75	€80	€85	€90	€300	€325
Classroom resources	€30	€35	€40	€40	€50	€55
Voluntary contribution	€75	€100	€75	€90	€125	€150
Total	€345	€365	€380	€390	€735	€785
Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance	€100		€100		€200	

Uniforms

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

Primary school: 90% of schools require a uniform

Secondary school: 98% require a school uniform
A plain, non-crested uniform can be bought by only 14% of **primary school** parents and just 1% of **secondary school** parents.

About half of parents surveyed said prices have stayed the same since last year (**Primary:** 51%, **Secondary:** 49%) but a significant proportion reported an increase in costs since last year (**Primary:** 36% **Secondary:** 52%).

Majority of **primary school** parents (59%) spend between €76 and €150 on school uniforms.

There is a wider variance in **secondary school** uniform costs, with most (56%) spending between €126 and €225.

Voluntary contribution

Primary school: 65% of parents asked for a voluntary contribution (contributions vary greatly; however 40% of parents are paying more than €100 per school year)

Secondary school: 73% of parents asked for a voluntary contribution (33% of parents say they are paying between €100 and €150 each school year and 23% are paying more than €200).

School books

47% of parents with children entering 1st Year and 29% of parents with children entering 5th Year say their school books cost in excess of €300.

77% of **primary school** parents spend €51 and €150 on school books (this includes those on school book rental scheme).

School book rental schemes

Primary school: 70% (an increase from 50% in 2012) have a school book rental scheme

Secondary school: 37% (an increase from just 20% in 2014) have a school book rental scheme

One in five parents (both **primary** and **secondary**) have faced an increase in their contribution to school book rental schemes in the last 12 months.

Digital

Primary school: 11% of school children use a tablet device in the classroom

Secondary school: 13% of school children use a tablet device in the classroom

82% of **primary school** parents whose children use tablets in school say their child's school provides the device and the software.

In contrast, **secondary school** parents say just 25% of schools pays for the device and 41% for the software.

Other costs

Primary school: 90% parents asked to pay towards classroom resources such as stationery and photocopying costs.

Secondary school: 70% of parents asked to pay towards classroom resources such as stationery and photocopying costs.