

**Report**

Survey on Cost of Education

[PR-Cost of Education-16/17]

**29 August 2017**

[](http://www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk/)

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**Executive Summary**

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) commissioned Social Market Research **(www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk)** to undertake a survey of parents on the cost of education in Northern Ireland. The survey is based on a representative sample of 1006 parents. Parents were interviewed in the own home on a face-to-face basis using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Fieldwork was undertaken between 7 March and 10 May 2017.

**Key Findings**

**Total Cost of Education**

* On average parents spent £1222.30 per child on education in the previous year;
* Parents spent an average of £421.21on pre-school children, £1004.64 on primary school children and, £1611.31 on children attending post primary schools;
* Parents with children attending controlled schools spent an average of £1286.14 per child (maintained, £1131.55: integrated, £1292.71);
* Parents with children attending secondary schools spent an average of £1517.85 per child with the spend on a child attending a grammar school estimated at £1989.70;
* Parents in the legacy Western Education and Library Board area recorded the highest average annual cost per child (£1341.29), whereas parents in the Southern Education and Library Board area (£1073.50) recorded the lowest cost;
* On average households spent £1979.18 on education costs in the last year;
* Households in the WELB area recorded the highest average annual spend (£2390.47) on education, whereas households in the SELB area (£1679.23) recorded the lowest average annual spend.

**Proportionate Spend by Item**

* School meals accounted for 34% of all expenditure, with snacks accounting for 18%, transport 15%, and uniform 9%;

**School Uniforms**

* On average parents spent £109.39 per child on school uniforms in the previous year, or an average of £176.68 per household;
* 4% of all children in the survey purchased school uniform from schools directly, 49% from particular suppliers, 22% from both schools and suppliers, with 25% free to use any supplier;
* Among children required to purchase school uniforms from schools or particular suppliers, 71% were required to purchase all or most items from these sources;

**PE Clothing, Footwear and Equipment**

* On average parents spent £53.69 per child on PE clothing, footwear and equipment in the previous year, or an average of £84.29 per household;
* 4% of all children in the survey purchased PE related gear from schools directly, 31% from particular suppliers, 17% from both schools and suppliers, with 48% free to use any supplier;
* Among children required to purchase PE gear from schools or particular suppliers, 71% were required to purchase all or most items from these sources;

**Equipment for Lessons**

* On average parents spent £52.38 per child on equipment for lessons in the previous year, or an average of £84.53 per household;
* Among all children in the survey, 76% had purchased a school bag in the last year, with 69% purchasing pens / pencils and 58% other stationery;

**Transport Costs**

* 22% of all children in the survey were entitled to free school transport;
* On average parents spent £11.06 a week per child on transport, or an average of £16.32 per household;
* On average parents spent £431.34 per child annually on transport, or an average of £563.86 per household;

**School Meals**

* 29% of all children in the survey were entitled to free school meals;
* 42% of children in the survey took a school dinner, 33% a packed lunch, 7% bought lunch away from the school, 3% had lunch at home, and 15% sometimes had lunches or school dinners;
* On average parents spent £3.06 a day per child on school meals, or an average of £4.72 per household;
* The annual average cost of school meals for a child was estimated at £596.12, or an average of £920.61 per household;

**Snacks and Drinks**

* On average parents spent £1.58 a day per child on snacks and drinks, or an average of £2.43 per household;
* The annual average cost of snacks for a child was estimated at £308.71, or £474.58 per household;

**School Fees and Voluntary Contributions**

* 7% of all children in the survey paid school fees, with 30% asked to make a voluntary contribution to their school;
* Parents who had spent money on school fees and / or voluntary contributions spent an average of £59.59 a year per child, or an average of £73.56 per household;
* 29% of children in the survey attend schools where there is a requirement to pay a voluntary contribution, with 33% of their parents feeling under a lot or some pressure to pay the contribution;

**Educational Visits**

* 65% of children in the survey had paid for educational visits / class outings in the last year;
* Those who had spent money on educational visits / class outings spent an average of £21.29 per child in the last year, or an average of £30.19 per household;
* 6% of children were unable to take part in educational visits / class outings in the last year due to cost;

**Additional Trips and Holidays**

* 41% of children attend schools that organise additional, optional trips or holidays, that are not a class or subject trip;
* 39% of children had paid for additional trips and holidays at their school;
* On average additional trips and holidays cost £249.61 per child in the last year, with households spending an average of £348.10 on these trips in the last year;
* 7% of children were unable to take part in additional trips or holidays in the last year due to cost;

**Charitable Donations**

* 80% of children in the survey had made charitable donations, contributions for non-uniform days or sponsored activities in the last year;
* Among those who had made charitable donations in the last year, the average cost per child was £10.42, or £17.37 per household;

**Before / After / Optional School Activities**

* 34% of children in the survey pay for before / after / optional school activities on a weekly basis;
* Among those who had paid for before / after / optional school activities, the average weekly cost per child was £8.91, or £13.34 per household;

**Homework Costs**

* 36% of all children in the survey needed computer equipment, printers, access to the internet etc., to enable them to complete their homework in the last year;
* Among those who needed computer equipment etc. for their homework, the average cost per child was £77.42, or £103.03 per household;

**School Fundraising Events**

* 62% of children attended schools that held social fundraising events for pupils and/or parents in the last year;
* Among those who indicated that their child’s (ren’s) school ran fundraising events in the last year, the average cost per child was £12.97, or £21.61 per household;

**Special Educational Needs**

* 7% of all children in the survey have special educational needs;
* Parents with children with special needs spent an average of £295 per child on additional items and activities relating to their child’s special educational needs, or an average of £364.41 per household;

**Extra Tuition**

* 5% of children in the survey incurred expenditure on extra tuition in the last year;
* Among those who had spent money on extra tuition in the last year, the average annual spend was £281.67 per child, or £364.41 per household;

**Communication with Schools**

* 25% of parents said they knew beforehand roughly how much it would cost to send their child (ren) to school *[75% were unaware];*
* 6% of parents said that cost was a factor affecting their choice of school for their child (ren);
* 21% of parents said they would be comfortable approaching their child’s school for financial help if they were struggling to pay the costs associated with sending them to the school *[62% said they would be uncomfortable];*

**Impact of Education Costs**

* 20% of parents agreed with the statement *‘My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs’* [75% disagreed];
* 30% of parents agreed with the statement *‘I worry about finding/affording the money to cover the costs of sending my child (ren) to school’* [65% disagreed];
* 5% of parents reported getting into debt to pay their children’s education costs, with family the most common source of loan funding (58%);
* 2% of parents had used a payday loan service to pay for their child’s (ren) education costs;
* 34% of parents said there are more school costs at particular times of the year, with 60% of these parents most commonly citing September / first term / start of the school year;

**Awareness that Schools Get Additional Funding for Children Entitled to Free School Meals**

* 23% of parents were aware that, when a child is entitled to free school meals, the government also provides their school with additional funding;
* 57% of parents were supportive of making some of the additional funding *(available to schools when child is entitled to free school meals)* available to cover some of the child’s school costs that the parents are normally asked to cover;

**Parental Expectations Regarding the Cost of Education in the Last Year**

* On being provided with an estimate of how much they had spent on education in the previous year at the end of the survey, 40% of parents felt the figure was more than they had expected, with 56% saying it was about what they had expected and 4% said it was less than they had expected;
* 58% of parents believed that he cost of education estimated in the survey was ‘about right’, with 41% saying it was ‘too much’ and 1% saying it was ‘too little’.

# Introduction

In March 2017, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a survey of parents on the cost of education. The survey was based on a representative sample of Northern Ireland parents aged 16+.

## 1.1 Context

The Commissioner’s role is to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people. The work of NICCY is guided by UNCRC which is a set of promises and commitments that the government has made to children and young people. It is made up of a list of 42 rights, which every child and young person in Northern Ireland should have. All NICCY’s work is focused on making sure children and young people know about, and have access to these rights in their day-to-day lives, so they have the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

The Government and ‘relevant authorities’ (including health, education and justice agencies) provide services for children and young people. One of NICCY’s jobs is to check they do this in a way that is in the best interests of young people. Within this context, NICCY is focused on:

* advising government and all its agencies on the policies, legislation (laws), and services it provides for children, young people and their families;
* monitoring what government does for children and young people, to make sure that they do what is best;
* holding government to account and challenging government to do better.

## 1.2 Measuring Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions

Ongoing research with NICCY’s full range of stakeholders is critical to its work. Specifically, monitoring public attitudes and perception helps and supports NICCY in terms of its strategic and operational focus. This research is aimed at supporting NICCY to further develop the debate on the cost of education in Northern Ireland and provide a reliable and robust evidence base to influence government and other key stakeholders in Northern Ireland.

## 1.3 Research

The research focused on gathering general information about the cost of education, the areas of expenditure required from parents and their impact on families and on children’s experience of school. The research also focused on measuring parental attitudes to the cost of education.

### **1.3.1 Research Aim**

The overall research aim is summarised as to:

*‘to assess the cost of education to parents across Northern Ireland’.*

### **1.3.2 Research Objectives**

Within the overall research aim the following attendant objectives were set:

* Estimate the overall cost of education to parents in Northern Ireland;
* Estimate the cost of specific elements such as school uniforms, travel, meals etc.;
* Views on communicating with schools;
* Assess the impact of education costs on parents and families; and,
* Assess parental attitudes to the cost of education.

## 1.4 Methodology

The research is based on a nationally representative sample of Northern Ireland parents aged 16+. In total, interviews were conducted with 1006 parents. The survey was administered on an in-home and face-to-face basis using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

### **1.4.1 Sampling**

Given the importance of the survey, and the contribution of the survey results to providing a baseline measure of the cost of education to parents, it was essential that the sampling methodology produced survey results representative of all parents 16+. To this end, the survey was conducted using quota sampling with tightly controlled quotas applied for parent: age; sex; social class; and, area of residence[[1]](#footnote-1) (Table 1.1). Table 1.1 presents the sample profile compared with known population parameters and shows that sample estimates are broadly in line with census estimates. The 95% Confidence Intervals are also presented.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 1.1 Sample Profile Compared with NI Parent Population (aged 16+) [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | NISRA[[2]](#footnote-2) (%) | Sample (%) | 95%  Confidence Interval (+/-) |
| Sex | Male | 53 | 47 | 43.9-50.1 |
| Female | 47 | 53 | 49.9-56.1 |
|  | | | | |
| Age | 16-34 | 20 | 26 | 23.3-28.7 |
| 35 to 44 | 30 | 35 | 32.1-37.9 |
| 45+ | 50 | 39 | 36.0-42.0 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class[[3]](#footnote-3) | ABC1 | 47 | 50 | 46.9-53.1 |
| C2DE | 53 | 50 | 46.9-53.1 |
|  | | | | |
| ‘Legacy’ Education and Library Board Area | Belfast | 16 | 15 | 12.8-17.2 |
| North Eastern | 24 | 26 | 23.3-28.7 |
| South Eastern | 23 | 24 | 21.4-26.6 |
| Southern | 21 | 20 | 17.5-22.5 |
| Western | 16 | 15 | 12.8-17.2 |
| Source: Northern Ireland Census of Population | | | | |

### 

### **1.4.2 Stratification by Area**

Fieldwork was conducted in 72 sampling points across Northern Ireland. Table 1.2 presents an overview of the sample by area or Local Government District (LGD)[[4]](#footnote-4) and shows the number of achieved interviews within each LGD (Note that Local Government Districts are coterminous with Education and Library Board areas and can act as a proxy for geographical area [north, south, east and west):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 1.2: Breakdown of Sample by Local Government District (n=1006) | | | |
| Local Govt. District (LGD) | % Population[[5]](#footnote-5) | % Sample | No. Interviews |
| Antrim | 2.9 | 3.2 | 32 |
| Ards | 4.4 | 4.6 | 46 |
| Armagh | 3.2 | 3.4 | 34 |
| Ballymena | 3.6 | 3.9 | 39 |
| Ballymoney | 1.7 | 2.0 | 20 |
| Banbridge | 2.6 | 2.7 | 27 |
| Belfast | 15.9 | 15.1 | 152 |
| Carrickfergus | 2.2 | 2.4 | 24 |
| Castlereagh | 3.8 | 3.9 | 39 |
| Coleraine | 3.3 | 3.3 | 33 |
| Cookstown | 2.0 | 1.9 | 19 |
| Craigavon | 5.1 | 5.1 | 51 |
| Derry | 5.8 | 5.9 | 59 |
| Down | 3.8 | 4.2 | 42 |
| Dungannon | 3.1 | 3.1 | 31 |
| Fermanagh | 3.4 | 3.1 | 31 |
| Larne | 1.8 | 1.2 | 12 |
| Limavady | 1.8 | 2.0 | 20 |
| Lisburn | 6.5 | 6.6 | 66 |
| Magherafelt | 2.4 | 2.7 | 27 |
| Moyle | 1.0 | 1.0 | 10 |
| Newry & Mourne | 5.4 | 3.7 | 37 |
| Newtownabbey | 4.7 | 6.8 | 68 |
| North Down | 4.7 | 4.6 | 46 |
| Omagh | 2.8 | 1.7 | 17 |
| Strabane | 2.1 | 2.4 | 24 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 | 1006 |

### **1.4.3 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire was developed collaboratively between SMR and NICCY and is included as an Appendix to this report.

### **1.4.4 Data Collection**

The survey was conducted using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing. Fieldwork on the survey was conducted between 7 March and 10 May 2017. A pilot survey was completed prior to the main survey. The survey questionnaire was revised following piloting. All interviews were conducted on a face-to-face basis with interviewers briefed before the commencement of fieldwork.

## 1.5 ISO20252

The survey was conducted in line with ISO20252 of which Social Market Research (SMR) is fully accredited.

## 1.6 Notes on Reporting

Please note that due to rounding, row and column totals in tables and figures may not sum to 100. Also, please note that any differences between respondent subgroups alluded to in the report commentary are statistically significant to at least the 95% confidence level. The use of [-] within tables denotes less than 1%. Note that costs quoted for individual elements such as uniform, fundraising etc, are based only on those parents / children who have incurred that cost.

# Survey Findings

## 2.1 Average Annual Total Cost of Education

Throughout the survey parents were asked to estimate the annual cost of different aspects of their children’s education including: uniform costs, school meals, equipment for lessons, transport costs etc. These costs were summated to provide an estimate of the average annual total cost of education per child.

### **2.1.1 Average Annual Total Cost of Education per Child**

Figure 2.1 presents an overview of the annual average total cost of education per child in Northern Ireland, with data also presented by school type (pre-school, primary school and post-primary school), management type (maintained, controlled and integrated), type of post-primary school (secondary and grammar) and by legacy education and library board area.

The overall average annual cost of education per child is estimated at £1222.30 (ranging from £0 to £6490). The average total cost for a pre-school child is estimated at £421.21, a primary school child is estimated at £1004.64 and post primary school child is estimated at £1611.31.

Analysis by school management type shows that the average annual cost for a child attending a maintained school (£1131.55) is slightly lower than the costs estimated for a child attending controlled school (£1286.14) or a child attending an integrated school (£1292.71).

The cost for a child attending a secondary school is estimated at £1517.85 whereas for a child attending a grammar school the cost is estimated at £1989.70.

Similarly, analysis by the legacy Education and Library Board areas found that the highest average annual total cost per child was recorded in the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) area (£1341.29), and the lowest in the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) area (£1073.50).

The average annual total cost of education per household in Northern Ireland is estimated at £1979.18 (ranging from £0 to £10678).

### **2.1.2 Annual Spend by Cost Item (All children)**

Table 2.2 presents an overview of the proportionate spend on different items, with school meals accounting for 34.4% of overall spend. Snacks accounted for 17.6% of overall spend with transport accounting for 15% of overall spend.

### **2.1.3 Annual Spend by Cost Item (Pre-school pupils)**

Table 2.3 presents an overview of the proportionate spend on different items for pre-school children, with school meals accounting for 25.3% of overall spend, snacks 25% and transport 19.5%.

### **2.1.4 Annual Spend by Cost Item (Primary school pupils)**

Table 2.4 presents an overview of the proportionate spend on different items for primary school children, with school meals accounting for 34.7% of overall spend, snacks 18.7% and transport 15.5%.

### **2.1.5 Annual Spend by Cost Item (Post primary school pupils)**

Table 2.5 presents an overview of the proportionate spend on different items for post primary school children, with school meals accounting for 34.3% of overall spend, snacks 16.3% and transport 14.4%.

## 2.2 School Uniforms

### **2.2.1 Average Annual Cost of Uniforms per Child**

The survey estimated that in the last year parents spent an average of £109.39 per child on school uniforms (ranging from £5 to £300).

The average annual cost for a uniform for a pre-school child was estimated at £48.27, with relatively higher costs recorded for primary (£85.15) and post primary (£152.49) school children.

The average annual cost of a school uniform for a child attending a controlled school was £114.33, with a relatively lower average annual cost recorded for children attending maintained (£103.93) schools. The cost for integrated schools was £112.46, with secondary and grammar schools recording £144.83 and £180.98 respectively.

On average households in Northern Ireland spent £176.68 on school uniforms in the last year (ranging from £5 to £1500).

### **2.2.2 Purchase of Uniforms from Schools Directly and Other Suppliers**

Among all children (n=1629) in the sample, 4% were required to purchase uniforms directly from their school, with 49% required to purchase uniforms from particular suppliers. Twenty two percent were required to purchase uniform from both schools and particular suppliers, with one quarter (25%) of pupils free to choose any supplier.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups:

**Purchasing uniforms from schools directly**

* Parents resident in the NEELB (9%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from the school directly;
* Parents of pre-school children were more likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from the school directly (27%);

**Purchasing uniforms from particular suppliers**

* Parents resident in the NEELB (73%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from particular suppliers;
* Parents of pre-school children were less likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from particular suppliers (33%);
* Parents of primary school children were less likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from particular suppliers (48%);
* Parents of post primary school children were more likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from particular suppliers (59%).

**Purchasing uniforms from schools directly and particular suppliers**

* Parents resident in the BELB (38%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase uniforms from schools directly and particular suppliers;

**Free to use any supplier**

* Parents resident in the SELB (33%) were more likely to say they could use any supplier;
* Parents of primary school children were more likely to say they could use any supplier (31%).
* Parents of post primary school children were less likely to say they could use any supplier (24%).

### **2.2.3 Amount of Uniform Required to Purchase from Schools or Particular Suppliers**

Parents who said they were required to purchase school uniforms from schools directly or particular suppliers were asked how much uniform they were required to purchase from these sources i.e. all of it, most items or some items.

Figure 2.8 shows that among children in the sample (n=1219) who were required to purchase school uniform from schools directly or particular suppliers, 16% were required to purchase all uniform items from these sources, 55% were required to purchase most items and 29% were required to purchase some uniform items from these sources.

There was one statistically significant difference in response:

**Amount of uniform purchased from schools directly or from particular suppliers**

* Parents resident in the NEELB (21%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase all uniform items either from the school directly or from particular sources;

### **2.2.4 Uniform Grants**

In the last year, 24% of parents reported that their child (ren) received a uniform grant. This equates to 26% (n=419) of all children in the sample.

Table 2.1 shows that there were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different groups of parents and these are highlighted in Table 2.1.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.1 Did you get a uniform grant for your child(ren) by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Received uniform grant | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 24 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | 18 | 425 |
| Female | 28 | 581 |
|  | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | 35 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | 22 | 356 |
| 45+ | 18 | 393 |
|  | | | |
| Social Class \* | ABC1 | 8 | 507 |
| C2DE | 40 | 499 |
|  | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | 17 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 48 | 220 |
|  | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | High | 8 | 331 |
| Medium | 29 | 565 |
| Low | 40 | 110 |
|  | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 20 | 558 |
| Two | 24 | 315 |
| Three+ | 36 | 133 |
|  | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | Yes | 43 | 73 |
| No | 22 | 933 |
|  | | | |
| Single parent\* | Yes | 54 | 222 |
| No | 15 | 770 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 25 | 357 |
| Grammar | 11 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 34 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 17 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 23 | 239 |
| Southern | 23 | 199 |
| Western | 26 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

## 2.3 PE Clothing, Footwear and Equipment

Parents in the survey were asked to say in the last year how much they had spent on PE clothing and footwear.

### **2.3.1 Average Annual Cost of PE Clothing, Footwear, Equip. per Child**

The survey estimated that in the last year parents spent an average of £53.69 per child on PE clothing, footwear and equipment (ranging from £2 to £200).

The average annual spend per pre-school child was estimated at £24.95, with higher average annual spends recorded for children attending primary (£34.78) and post primary (£81.88) schools.

The average annual cost per child attending controlled schools was £57.55, with the average annual costs for children attending maintained schools estimated at £48.82 and £53.63 for integrated schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £73.48 and £109.92 respectively.

In the last year, households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £84.29 on PE clothing, footwear and equipment (ranging from £2 to £750).

### **2.3.2 Purchase of PE Clothing, Footwear, Equipment**

Among all children (n=1629) in the sample, 4% were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from schools directly, with 31% required to purchase from particular suppliers. Seventeen percent (17%) of children were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from both schools directly and from particular suppliers, with 48% free to use any supplier.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in between different groups of parents:

**Purchasing PE clothing, footwear and equipment from schools directly**

* Parents resident in the WELB (8%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from the school directly;
* Parents of primary school children (5%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from the school directly;

**Purchasing PE clothing, footwear and equipment from particular suppliers**

* Parents resident in the NEELB (46%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from particular suppliers;
* Parents of pre-school children (10%) were less likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from particular suppliers;
* Parents of primary school children (28%) were less likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from particular suppliers;
* Parents of post primary school children (47%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from particular suppliers;

**Purchasing PE clothing, footwear and equipment from schools directly and particular suppliers**

* Parents resident in the BELB (38%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from the school directly and particular suppliers;
* Parents of post primary school children (22%) were more likely to say they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from the school directly and particular suppliers.

**Free to use any supplier**

* Parents resident in the SEELB (59%) were more likely to say they could use any supplier;
* Parents of pre-school children (85%) were more likely to say they could use any supplier;
* Parents of primary school children (58%) were more likely to say they could use any supplier;
* Parents of post primary school children (39%) were less likely to say they could use any supplier;

### **2.3.3 Amount of PE Clothing, Footwear, Equipment Required to Purchase**

Parents who said they were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from schools directly, or from particular suppliers, were asked how much PE clothing, footwear and equipment they were required to purchase from these sources i.e. all of it, most items or some items.

Among all children in the sample (52% or 846 children) who were required to purchase PE clothing, footwear and equipment from schools directly, or from particular suppliers, 15% were required to purchase all items from these sources, 56% were required to purchase most items, and 29% were required to purchase some items from these sources.

There were some statistically significant differences in response between different groups of parents:

**Amount of PE clothing, footwear and equipment purchased from schools directly or from particular suppliers**

* Parents resident in the SELB (4%) were least likely to say they were required to purchase all PE clothing, footwear and equipment either from the school directly or from particular sources;
* Parents of pre-school children (33%) were more likely to say they had to purchase all PE clothing, footwear and equipment either from the school directly or from particular sources.

## 2.4 Equipment for Lessons

Parents were asked if they were required to purchase any items of equipment for school lessons.

### **2.4.1 Equipment Purchased**

Among all children in the sample, the most common purchases included school bags (76%), pens / pencils (69%) and other stationery e.g. paper, files, folders etc (58%) [Figure 2.13].

### **2.4.2 Average Annual Cost of Equipment for Lessons per Child**

The survey estimated that in the last year parents spent an average of £52.38 per child on equipment for lessons (ranging from £1 to £500).

The average annual spend for a pre-school child was estimated at £15.30, with higher average annual spends recorded for children attending primary (£34.15) and post primary (£79.78) schools.

The average annual cost per child attending controlled schools was £51.14, with the average annual cost for maintained schools estimated at £51.87. For integrated schools, the average annual cost per child was £54.68. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £71.52 and £103.52 respectively.

Last year, households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £84.53 on equipment for lessons (ranging from £2 to £1610).

## 2.5 Transport Costs

The survey included questions to estimate the transport costs incurred by parents.

### **2.5.1 Free School Transport**

Approximately one in four (24%) parents said their child (ren) was in receipt of free school transport. This equates to 22% of all children in the sample or 357 children.

Table 2.2 identifies a number of statistically significant differences in response among different parent groups with those more likely to say their child(ren) gets free school transport including: older parents [age 45+, 32%]; those in social classes C2DE (27%); single parents (29%) etc.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.2 Does your child(ren) gets free school transport by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Yes, gets free school transport | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 24 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | 16 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | 20 | 356 |
| 45+ | 32 | 393 |
|  | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | 22 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | 22 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | 36 | 93 |
|  | | | |
| Social Class \* | ABC1 | 20 | 507 |
| C2DE | 27 | 499 |
|  | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 20 | 558 |
| Two | 24 | 315 |
| Three+ | 38 | 133 |
|  | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | Yes | 34 | 73 |
| No | 23 | 933 |
|  | | | |
| Single parent\* | Yes | 29 | 222 |
| No | 22 | 770 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 35 | 357 |
| Grammar | 39 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 17 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 26 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 19 | 239 |
| Southern | 26 | 199 |
| Western | 29 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.5.2 Average Weekly Cost of Transport per Child**

The survey estimated that in an average school week parents spent an average of £11.06 per child on transport (ranging from £1 to £75).

The average weekly cost of transport for a child attending a pre-school was estimated at £7.00, with higher average costs estimated for children attending primary (£9.89) and post primary (£12.76) schools.

The average weekly cost of transport for a child attending a controlled school was £11.01, with the average weekly cost of transport for children attending maintained school estimated at £11.02. The figure for integrated schools was £11.09. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £12.40 and £14.46 respectively.

On average households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £16.32 a week on transport (ranging from £1 to £150).

### **2.5.3 Average Annual Cost of Transport per Child**

The survey estimated that annually parents spent an average of £431.34 per child on transport.

The average annual cost of transport for a child attending a pre-school was estimated at £273.00, with higher average costs estimated for children attending primary (£385.63) and post primary (£497.83) schools.

The average annual cost of transport for a child attending a controlled school was £429.47, with the average annual cost of transport for children attending maintained school estimated at £429.64. The figure for integrated schools was £432.62. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £483.53 and £563.86 respectively.

On average households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £636.43 annually on transport.

2.6 School Meals

### **2.6.1 Entitlement to Free School Meals**

Approximately three out of ten (29%) parents reported that their child (ren) gets free school meals. This equates to 30% of all children in the sample or 487 children.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.3.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.3 Does your child(ren) get a free school meal by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Child (ren) get FSMs | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 29 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | 22 | 425 |
| Female | 34 | 581 |
|  | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | 46 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | 27 | 356 |
| 45+ | 20 | 393 |
|  | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | 66 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | 18 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | 45 | 93 |
|  | | | |
| Social Class \* | ABC1 | 11 | 507 |
| C2DE | 47 | 499 |
|  | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | 21 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 58 | 220 |
|  | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | High | 11 | 331 |
| Medium | 35 | 565 |
| Low | 50 | 110 |
|  | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 27 | 558 |
| Two | 30 | 315 |
| Three+ | 37 | 133 |
|  | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | Yes | 52 | 73 |
| No | 27 | 933 |
|  | | | |
| Single parent\* | Yes | 62 | 222 |
| No | 20 | 770 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 27 | 357 |
| Grammar | 14 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 38 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 24 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 27 | 239 |
| Southern | 23 | 199 |
| Western | 39 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.6.2 School Dinner and Other Options**

Parents were asked if their child(ren) normally take(s) a school dinner or not.

Among all children in the sample, 42% took a school dinner, 33% a packed lunch and 7% bought lunch away from the school site. Three percent (3%) of children normally have lunch at home, whereas 15% sometimes have lunches and sometimes school dinners.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.4.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.4 Child(ren) normally take a school dinner by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Child(ren) take a school dinner | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 41 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | 37 | 425 |
| Female | 44 | 581 |
|  | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | 49 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | 38 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | 50 | 93 |
|  | | | |
| Social Class \* | ABC1 | 35 | 507 |
| C2DE | 48 | 499 |
|  | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | 38 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 54 | 220 |
|  | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | High | 34 | 331 |
| Medium | 45 | 565 |
| Low | 46 | 110 |
|  | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 32 | 558 |
| Two | 51 | 315 |
| Three+ | 60 | 133 |
|  | | | |
| Single parent\* | Yes | 52 | 222 |
| No | 39 | 770 |
|  | | | |
| Free school meals\* | Yes | 65 | 291 |
| No | 32 | 715 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 42 | 357 |
| Grammar | 51 | 126 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.6.3 Average Daily Cost of School Meals**

The survey estimated that parents spend an average of £3.06 per child each day on school meals (ranging from £1 to £10).

The average daily cost of a school meal for a per pre-school child was estimated at £1.81, with relatively higher daily costs estimated for children attending primary (£2.64) and post primary (£3.62) schools.

The average daily cost for a child attending a controlled school was estimated at £3.25, with relatively lower daily costs estimated for children attending maintained (£2.88) and integrated (£2.82) schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £3.57 and £3.58 respectively.

Households in Northern Ireland were found to spend an average of £4.72 per day on school meals (ranging from £1 to £20).

### **2.6.4 Average Annual Cost of School Meals**

The survey estimated that parents spend an average of £596.12 annually on school meals.

The average annual cost of school meals for a per pre-school child was estimated at £353.05, with relatively higher annual costs estimated for children attending primary (£515.00) and post primary (£705.28) schools.

The average annual cost for a child attending a controlled school was estimated at £634.00, with relatively lower daily costs estimated for children attending maintained (£562.49) and integrated (£549.66) schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £695.81 and £698.55 respectively.

Households in Northern Ireland were found to spend an average of £920.61 annually on school meals.

### **2.6.5 Average Daily Cost of Snacks and Drinks**

The survey estimated that parents spend an average of £1.58 per child each day on school snacks and drinks (ranging from £1 to £6).

The average daily spend per pre-school child was estimated at £1.31 with higher average spends estimated for children attending primary (£1.40) and post primary (£1.85) schools.

The average daily spend on snacks and drinks per child attending controlled schools was £1.59, with relatively lower levels of spend recorded for children attending maintained (£1.56) and integrated (£1.59) schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £1.84 and £1.80 respectively.

Households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £2.43 on snacks and drinks each day (ranging from £1 to £15).

### **2.6.6 Average Annual Cost of Snacks and Drinks**

The survey estimated that parents spend an average of £308.71 annually on school snacks and drinks.

The average annual spend per pre-school child was estimated at £255.00 with higher average spends estimated for children attending primary (£272.91) and post primary (£360.03) schools.

The average annual spend on snacks and drinks per child attending controlled schools was £310.01, with relatively lower levels of spend recorded for children attending maintained (£303.65) and integrated (£309.95) schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £258.44 and £351.53 respectively.

Households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £474.58 on snacks and drinks each year.

2.7 School Fees / Voluntary Contributions

The survey included questions on school fees and annual voluntary contributions.

### **2.7.1 Paying School Fees or being Asked for Voluntary Contributions**

Seven percent (7%) of children in the sample paid school fees, with 30% having been asked for an annual voluntary contribution. Almost two out of three (63%) neither paid fees nor had they been asked for an annual voluntary contribution.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response among different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.5.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.5 Are you required to pay school fees or asked for voluntary contributions to your child’s school by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Pay fees or asked to make voluntary contribution | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 44 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| School type\* | Pre-school children | 22 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 33 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 63 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| School management type\* | Controlled | 53 | 409 |
| Maintained | 34 | 363 |
| Integrated | 49 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 62 | 357 |
| Grammar | 79 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 46 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 47 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 49 | 239 |
| Southern | 35 | 199 |
| Western | 36 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.7.2 Average Annual Cost of Fees / Voluntary Contributions per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who pay school fees or make an annual voluntary contribution, the average annual cost per child is £59.59 (ranging from £4 to £500).

The average annual cost per pre-school child was estimated at £50.60, £31.46 for children attending primary schools and £73.59 for children attending post primary schools.

The average annual cost of school fees / voluntary contributions per child attending controlled schools was £55.83, compared with £55.58 for maintained schools and £63.77 for integrated schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £41.58 and £135.08 respectively.

Among households who pay school fees and/ or make an annual voluntary contribution to their child’s school, the average cost is estimated at £73.56 (ranging from £5 to £600).

### **2.7.3 Parents Feeling Under Pressure to Pay Voluntary Contribution**

Parents were invited to say if they felt under any pressure to pay the voluntary contribution they were asked for, with 30% saying they felt a lot or some pressure to do so.

Figure 2.26 shows among children (n=476) attending schools with a requirement to pay a voluntary contribution, 14% of their parents said they felt a lot of pressure, 19% felt some pressure and 67% felt no pressure.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.6.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.6 Feel under pressure to pay voluntary contribution by socio-demographic characteristics [N=352] | | | |
|  | | Feel under pressure to pay vol. contribution | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 30 | 352 |
|  | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | Yes | 50 | 22 |
| No | 29 | 330 |
|  | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | 28 | 283 |
| Economically inactive | 42 | 69 |
|  | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 23 | 197 |
| Two | 35 | 111 |
| Three+ | 52 | 44 |
|  | | | |
| Single parent\* | Yes | 43 | 65 |
| No | 27 | 282 |
|  | | | |
| Free school meals\* | Yes | 46 | 70 |
| No | 27 | 282 |
|  | | | |
| School type\* | Pre-school children | 50 | 10 |
| Primary school children | 33 | 168 |
| Post primary school children | 33 | 246 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 28 | 357 |
| Grammar | 49 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type\* | Controlled | 21 | 179 |
| Maintained | 48 | 99 |
| Integrated | 30 | 87 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 45 | 60 |
| North Eastern | 21 | 96 |
| South Eastern | 24 | 91 |
| Southern | 33 | 67 |
| Western | 42 | 38 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

Table 2.7 presents an overview of the reasons why parents felt under pressure to pay an annual voluntary contribution to their child’s school, with the most common reason being that schools send out letters / reminders (26%).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.7: Reasons parents stated for feeling under pressure to pay voluntary contributions (base =100: multiple response i.e. parents may have provided more than one response) | | |
|  | % | n |
| School sends out letters / reminders | 26 | 26 |
| Feel it is compulsory, it is expected | 15 | 15 |
| Struggle to pay, can't pay it | 8 | 8 |
| Feel under pressure to pay | 7 | 7 |
| It would look bad if I didn't pay | 7 | 7 |
| Everyone else / most people are paying | 5 | 5 |
| It does not say it is voluntary | 5 | 5 |
| Don't want my child to feel different | 4 | 4 |
| Has an effect on child at school if I don't pay it | 4 | 4 |
| Asked every year for a substantial amount | 3 | 3 |
| Other answer | 3 | 3 |
| It is important to pay, feel it contributes | 3 | 3 |
| I don't think anyone should have to pay | 2 | 2 |
| I sometimes don't pay | 2 | 2 |
| Teacher asking child directly | 1 | 1 |
| They sent out a direct debit form | 1 | 1 |
| Named and shamed | 1 | 1 |
| School states it is obligatory | 1 | 1 |
| Same as all schools | 1 | 1 |
| Get reminders from the bank | 1 | 1 |
| I think the government should pay this | 1 | 1 |
| We receive emails about it | 1 | 1 |
| Bad time of year due to buying uniform | 1 | 1 |

2.8 Educational Visits / Class Outings

Parents were asked about educational visits / class outings for their children in the last year including how much they had to pay and whether cost was a factor in allowing their children to participate in such outings (note that educational visits / class outings refer to trips which whole classes go on mostly during the school day, and not additional / optional ones such as ski trips etc.).

### **2.8.1 Number of Educational Visits / Class Outings in Last Year Paying For**

Seven out of ten (70%) parents reported that they had to pay for their child (ren) to go to educational visits / class outings in the last year. This equates to 65% of children in the sample.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different groups of parents and these are highlighted in Table 2.8.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.8 Over the past year, how many outings did you have to pay for which your child went on with their whole class by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Pay for school outings in last year | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 70 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| School type\* | Pre-school children | 62 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 75 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 70 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary \* | Secondary | 73 | 357 |
| Grammar | 77 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type\* | Controlled | 77 | 409 |
| Maintained | 68 | 363 |
| Integrated | 73 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 74 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 75 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 77 | 239 |
| Southern | 58 | 199 |
| Western | 62 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.8.2 Average Annual Cost of Educational Visits / Class Outings per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who had paid for educational visits / class outings in the last year, the average cost per child was £21.29 (ranging from £1 to £10).

The average annual cost per pre-school child was estimated at £7.37, £17.07 for children attending primary schools and £29.19 for children attending post primary schools.

The average annual cost of educational visits / class outings for a child attending a controlled school was £21.81, compared with £19.07 for maintained school and £25.13 for an integrated school. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £29.15 and £30.13 respectively.

The average annual cost of educational visits / class outings for households in Northern Ireland is estimated at £30.19 (ranging from £1 to £200).

### **2.8.3 Children Participating in Educational Visits / Class Outings and Cost**

Six percent (6%) of parents said that in the last year they were unable to let their child(ren) participate in an educational visit or class outing due to cost. This equates to 6% (n=99) of children in the sample.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.9. Please note that the difference by school management type is not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.9 Unable to let child(ren) participate in educational visits / outings due to cost by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Unable to let child(ren) participate in educational visits / outings due to cost | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 6 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | Yes | 22 | 73 |
| No | 5 | 933 |
|  | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | 5 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 11 | 220 |
|  | | | |
| Social Class\* | ABC1 | 4 | 507 |
| C2DE | 8 | 499 |
|  | | | |
| Single parent\* | Yes | 9 | 222 |
| No | 5 | 770 |
|  | | | |
| Free school meals\* | Yes | 11 | 291 |
| No | 4 | 715 |
|  | | | |
| School type\* | Pre-school children | 0 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 6 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 7 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 8 | 357 |
| Grammar | 5 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type | Controlled | 5 | 409 |
| Maintained | 8 | 363 |
| Integrated | 6 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 5 | 60 |
| North Eastern | 5 | 96 |
| South Eastern | 5 | 91 |
| Southern | 5 | 67 |
| Western | 12 | 38 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

2.9 Additional Trips and Holidays

Parents were asked if their child’s school organises additional, optional trips or holidays, that are not a class or subject trip (e.g. ski trips, camping holidays, excursions to celebrate the end of the school term / year) and if they had paid for their child(ren) to go on these trips.

### **2.9.1 Availability of Additional Trips and Holidays**

Less than half (46%) of parents said their child’s school organises additional, optional trips or holidays, that are not a class or subject trip. This equates to 41% (n=663) of all children in the sample having the option of additional trips.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response by different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.10.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.10 Does your child’s school organise additional, optional trips or holidays, that are not a class or subject trip by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Pay for school outings in last year | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 46 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| School type\* | Pre-school children | 12 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 36 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 66 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary | Secondary | 70 | 357 |
| Grammar | 68 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type\* | Controlled | 44 | 409 |
| Maintained | 52 | 363 |
| Integrated | 50 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 59 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 41 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 39 | 239 |
| Southern | 65 | 199 |
| Western | 29 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.9.2 Paying for Additional Trips and Holidays**

In schools where additional trips and holidays were available, 39% of children had paid for such trips and holidays.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.11 [note that the difference between school type is not statistically significant].

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.11 Over the past year, how many additional trips or holidays did you pay for your child by socio-demographic characteristics [N=436] | | | |
|  | | Pay for school outings in last year | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 40 | 463 |
|  | | | |
| School type | Pre-school children | 43 | 7 |
| Primary school children | 44 | 223 |
| Post primary school children | 40 | 332 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary \* | Secondary | 34 | 357 |
| Grammar | 58 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type \* | Controlled | 45 | 181 |
| Maintained | 38 | 189 |
| Integrated | 41 | 104 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 23 | 89 |
| North Eastern | 43 | 108 |
| South Eastern | 50 | 93 |
| Southern | 43 | 130 |
| Western | 44 | 43 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.9.3 Average Annual Cost of Additional Trips or Holidays per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who had paid for additional trips or holidays in the last year, the average cost per child was £249.61 (ranging from £2 to £1200).

None of the parents with pre-school children reported a cost for additional trips or holidays, whereas parents of primary school children reported an annual average cost of £89.11 per child, with parents of post primary school children reporting an average annual cost of £372.02 per child.

The average annual cost of additional trips or holidays for a child attending a controlled school was £332.18, compared with £133.09 for a child attending a maintained school and £367.07 for a child attending an integrated school. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £284.28 and £534.60 respectively.

The average annual cost of additional trips or holidays per household in Northern Ireland is estimated at £348.10 (ranging from £3 to £2200).

### **2.9.4 Child(ren) Participating in Additional Trips or Holidays and Cost**

Eight percent (8%) of parents said that in the last year they were unable to let their child(ren) participate in additional trips or holidays due to cost. This equates to 7% (n=111) of all children in the sample.

Table 2.12 highlights a number of statistically significant differences in response to this question between different parent groups. Please note that the difference by school management type is not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.12 Unable to let child(ren) participate in additional trips or holidays due to cost by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Unable to let child(ren) participate in additional trips or holidays due to cost | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 8 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | | 6 | 425 |
| Female | | 9 | 581 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 10 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 7 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 15 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 19 | 73 |
| No | 7 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | | Economically active | 7 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 12 | 220 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | | ABC1 | 5 | 507 |
| C2DE | 10 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 4 | 331 |
| Medium | 10 | 565 |
| Low | 10 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 6 | 558 |
| Two | 9 | 315 |
| Three+ | 14 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Single parent\* | | Yes | 13 | 222 |
| No | 6 | 770 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 12 | 291 |
| No | 6 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 0 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 6 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 13 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary | | Secondary | 15 | 357 |
| Grammar | 12 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type | | Controlled | 8 | 409 |
| Maintained | 7 | 363 |
| Integrated | 10 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 18 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 8 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 3 | 239 |
| Southern | 6 | 199 |
| Western | 9 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

2.10 Charitable Donations

Parents were asked if, in the past year, they had made charitable donations, contributions for non-uniform days or sponsored activities (e.g. fancy-dress days for a particular cause etc.). Those parents who had made charitable donations were also asked how much they had spent on charitable days.

### **2.10.1 Making Charitable Donations**

Almost four out of five (78%) parents said they had made charitable donations, contributions for non-uniform days or sponsored activities. This equates to 80% of all children in the sample.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response by different parent groups to this question (Table 2.13).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.13 In the past year have you made charitable donations, contributions for non-uniform days or sponsored activities (e.g. fancy-dress days for a particular cause etc. by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Made a charitable donation in last year | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 78 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | | 73 | 425 |
| Female | | 82 | 581 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 75 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 81 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 67 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 64 | 73 |
| No | 79 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 81 | 331 |
| Medium | 80 | 565 |
| Low | 64 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 73 | 558 |
| Two | 84 | 315 |
| Three+ | 87 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 74 | 291 |
| No | 80 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 63 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 83 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 77 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary\* | | Secondary | 80 | 357 |
| Grammar | 87 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 88 | 409 |
| Maintained | 73 | 363 |
| Integrated | 82 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 86 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 83 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 74 | 239 |
| Southern | 80 | 199 |
| Western | 68 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.10.2 Average Annual Cost of Charitable Donations per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who had made charitable donations in the last year, the average cost per child was £10.42 (ranging from £1 to £300).

Parents with pre-school children reported spending an average of £8.08 on charitable donations per child, with higher levels of spend recorded by parents of primary (£9.15) and post primary (£12.58) children.

The average annual amount spent on charitable donations per child attending controlled schools was £10.21, compared with £10.79 for maintained schools and £11.56 for integrated schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £13.17 and £13.79 respectively.

Among parents who had made charitable donations, the average annual cost per household was £17.37 (ranging from £1 to £300).

2.11 Before /After / Optional School Activities

Parents were asked if, in the last year, they had paid for any of the following additional activities at school (e.g. breakfast clubs, afterschool clubs, music tuition etc.). Parents who had paid for these activities were also asked how much they had spent.

### **2.11.1 Paying for Before /After / Optional School Activities**

Twenty seven percent (27%) of parents reported paying for before / after / optional school activities for their child (ren).

Among all children in the sample, 34% had paid for before / after / optional school activities, with 17% paying for afterschool clubs, 7% for music tuition, 7% for breakfast clubs and 3% for other activities.

There were a number of statistically significant differences between parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.14. Please note that the difference by education and library board area is not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.14 Over the past year have you paid for any of the following additional activities at school by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Paid for after / before / optional school activities | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 27 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | | 24 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | | 33 | 356 |
| 45+ | | 23 | 393 |
|  | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | | 29 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | | 20 | 220 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 34 | 331 |
| Medium | 24 | 565 |
| Low | 23 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 21 | 291 |
| No | 29 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 12 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 36 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 22 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary \* | | Secondary | 19 | 357 |
| Grammar | 34 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 23 | 409 |
| Maintained | 34 | 363 |
| Integrated | 30 | 209 |
|  | |  |  |  |
| Education and Library Board Area | | Belfast | 24 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 23 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 30 | 239 |
| Southern | 26 | 199 |
| Western | 35 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.11.2 Average Weekly Cost of Before/After/Optional Activities per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who had paid for before / after / optional school activities in the last year, the average weekly cost per child was £8.91 (ranging from £1 to £50).

For a pre-school child, the average weekly cost was estimated at £6.00, £8.39 for children attending primary schools and £10.84 for children attending post primary schools. The average weekly cost per child attending controlled schools was £9.99, £7.71 for maintained schools and £9.38 for children attending integrated schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £9.89 and £11.60 respectively.

Among parents who paid for before / after / optional school activities, the average weekly cost per household was £13.34 (ranging from £1 to £90).

2.12 Homework Costs

Parents were asked if their child (ren) needed computer equipment, printers, access to the internet etc. to complete their homework, with parents also asked how much they had spent on these resources in the past year.

### **2.12.1 Computer Equip. and Resources Needed for Homework**

Approximately four out of ten (39%) parents said, that in the last year, their child (ren) needed computer equipment, printers, access to the internet etc., to enable them to complete their homework. This equates to 36% of all children in the sample.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.15.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.15 Does your child (ren) need computer equipment, printer, access to the internet etc. to complete their homework by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Chid (ren) need computer equipment etc. to do homework | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 39 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | | 16 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | | 37 | 356 |
| 45+ | | 56 | 393 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 25 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 41 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 45 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | ABC1 | | 43 | 507 |
| C2DE | | 35 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 36 | 558 |
| Two | 37 | 315 |
| Three+ | 54 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 31 | 291 |
| No | 42 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 12 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 26 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 64 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary | | Secondary | 66 | 357 |
| Grammar | 68 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 39 | 409 |
| Maintained | 39 | 363 |
| Integrated | 46 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 54 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 39 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 31 | 239 |
| Southern | 35 | 199 |
| Western | 40 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.12.2 Average Annual Cost of Computer Equip. for Homework per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who said their child (ren) needed computer equipment etc. for their homework, the average cost per child was £77.42 (ranging from £2 to £500).

Although none of the parents with pre-school children in the survey had spent money on computer equipment, the average amount spent on a child attending primary school was estimated at £53.92, and £83.84 for a child attending a post primary school.

The average annual cost of computer equipment etc. for a child attending a controlled school was £64.73, compared with £105.69 for a child attending a maintained school and £46.22 for a child attending an integrated school. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £74.70 and £92.73 respectively.

Among households in Northern Ireland who had paid for computer equipment etc., the average cost was estimated at £103.03 (ranging from £5 to £1500).

2.13 School Fundraising Events

Parents were asked if, over the last year, their child’s (ren’s) school(s) held social fundraising events for pupils and/or parents e.g. school fairs, discos, concerts etc. Parents were also asked how much they had spent on these events over the past year.

### **2.13.1 Parents Reporting School Fundraising Events**

Two out of three (66%) parents reported that, over the last year, their child’s /ren’s school(s) held social fundraising events for pupils and/or parents. This equates to 62% of children in the sample.

There were a number of statistically significant differences between parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.16. Note that the difference between school management type is not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.16 Over the past year has your child’s (ren’s) school(s) held social fundraising events for pupils and/or parents e.g. school fairs, discos, concerts etc. by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Child(ren) school held fundraising events | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 66 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| School type\* | Pre-school children | 45 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 68 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 68 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 75 | 357 |
| Grammar | 62 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type | Controlled | 71 | 409 |
| Maintained | 65 | 363 |
| Integrated | 69 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 70 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 67 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 60 | 239 |
| Southern | 77 | 199 |
| Western | 58 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.13.2 Average Annual Cost of School Fundraising Events per Child**

The survey estimated that among parents who indicated that their child’s (ren’s) school ran fundraising events in the last year, the average cost per child was £12.97 (ranging from £1 to £200).

The average annual spend for a pre-school child was estimated at £11.00, £12.25 for a child attending a primary school and £17.03 for a child attending a post primary school.

The average annual cost per child attending a controlled school was £13.76, compared with £13.43 for a child attending a maintained school and £15.66 for a child attending an integrated school. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £15.20 and £19.95 respectively.

Among parents who indicated that their child’s (ren’s) school ran fundraising events in the last year, the average annual cost per household was £21.61 (ranging from £2 to £300).

2.14 Special Educational Needs

Parents were asked if any of their children have special educational needs and if so, how much they had spent on items relating to their special educational needs in the previous year.

### **2.14.1 Prevalence of Special Educational Needs**

One in then (10%) of parents reported having a child with special educational needs. This equates to 7% of all children in the sample (n=116).

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.17. Please note that differences between school type, school management type and education and library board area are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.17 Do any of your children have special educational needs by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Child (ren) with special educational needs | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 10 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | ABC1 | | 8 | 507 |
| C2DE | | 12 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | Economically active | | 8 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | | 17 | 220 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | High | | 7 | 331 |
| Medium | | 9 | 565 |
| Low | | 23 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 6 | 558 |
| Two | 13 | 315 |
| Three+ | 17 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 30 | 73 |
| No | 8 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Single parent\* | | Yes | 14 | 222 |
| No | 9 | 770 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 19 | 291 |
| No | 6 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type | | Pre-school children | 8 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 12 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 11 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary | | Secondary | 12 | 357 |
| Grammar | 13 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type | | Controlled | 9 | 409 |
| Maintained | 13 | 363 |
| Integrated | 9 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area | | Belfast | 15 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 8 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 12 | 239 |
| Southern | 7 | 199 |
| Western | 9 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.14.2 Cost of Items Related to Special Educational Needs per Child**

Among parents with children with special educational needs, and who reported additional spending relating to their special educational needs, the survey estimated an average annual cost of £295.00 per child (ranging from £5 to £1500) *[please note that only 19 parents in the survey reported additional spending related to their child’s special educational needs and that this estimate is based on a relatively small sample size].*

2.15 Extra Tuition

### **2.15.1 Spending on Extra Tuition**

Seven percent (7%) of parents reported expenditure on extra tuition for their child (ren) over the last year. This equates to 5% (n=82) of all children in the sample.

### **2.15.2 Average Annual Cost of Extra Tuition per Child**

Among parents who had spent money on extra tuition for their child (ren) in the last year, the average annual spend was £281.67 per child (ranging from £3 to £1200).

Among parents who had spent money on extra tuition for their child (ren) in the last year, the average annual spend is estimated at £364.41 per household (ranging from £3 to £1200)*.*

There were a number of statistically significant differences between different parent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.18.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.18 Over the past year have you spent money on extra tuition for your child by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Spent money on extra tuition for your child (ren) in the last year | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 7 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | | 2 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | | 8 | 356 |
| 45+ | | 9 | 393 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 15 | 73 |
| No | 6 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | | ABC1 | 10 | 507 |
| C2DE | 4 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 13 | 331 |
| Medium | 4 | 565 |
| Low | 6 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 5 | 558 |
| Two | 8 | 315 |
| Three+ | 14 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 4 | 291 |
| No | 8 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 5 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 6 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 10 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary \* | | Secondary | 8 | 357 |
| Grammar | 18 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 4 | 409 |
| Maintained | 8 | 363 |
| Integrated | 12 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 12 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 4 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 9 | 239 |
| Southern | 4 | 199 |
| Western | 8 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

2.16 Spending on Other Activities and Items

Parents were asked if they had spent money on other activities or items in the last year which had not been covered in the survey.

### **2.16.1 Prevalence of Spending on Other Activities or Items**

Three percent (3%) of parents had spent money on other activities or items in the last year. Note that due to the very small sample size (25 parents) sub analysis by socio-demographic characteristics would be problematic. Please note that 3% of parents equates to 2% (n=32) of all children in the sample

2.17 Communication with Schools

### **2.17.1 Parental Awareness of the Cost of Sending Child (ren) to School**

Parents were asked if prior to sending their child (ren) to the school they attend if they knew beforehand roughly how much it would cost. Among all parents in the survey, one in four (25%) said they knew beforehand roughly how much it would cost to send their child (ren) to school, with a majority (75%) unaware of what it would cost.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.19. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.19 Prior to sending your child to the school they attend, did you know beforehand roughly how much it would cost by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Know beforehand cost of sending child (ren) to school | N |
| % |
| All parents | | | 25 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Age\* | 16-34 | | 19 | 257 |
| 35 to 44 | | 26 | 356 |
| 45+ | | 29 | 393 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 17 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 26 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 31 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | | ABC1 | 29 | 507 |
| C2DE | 21 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 19 | 291 |
| No | 28 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type | | Pre-school children | 28 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 23 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 28 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary | | Secondary | 24 | 357 |
| Grammar | 34 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type | | Controlled | 24 | 409 |
| Maintained | 24 | 363 |
| Integrated | 24 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 22 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 25 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 18 | 239 |
| Southern | 32 | 199 |
| Western | 29 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.17.2 Cost a Factor Affecting Choice of School**

Parents were asked if the costs associated with sending their child to school were a factor in their choice of school.

Six percent (6%) of parents said that the costs associated with sending their child to school was either a major (1%) or minor (5%) factor affecting their choice of school, with 88% saying cost was not a factor. Six percent (6%) of parents answered, ‘don’t know’.

Table 2.20 shows that cost was more likely to be a factor affecting choice of school for parents with children attending maintained schools (9%). Cost was also more likely to be a factor affecting choice among parents with children attending schools in the BELB (12%) and WELB (13%) areas. Please note that the difference between school type is not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.20 Cost a factor in choice of school by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Cost a factor in affecting choice of school | N |
| % |
| All parents | | 6 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| School type | Pre-school children | 10 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 5 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 7 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary\* | Secondary | 6 | 357 |
| Grammar | 10 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type\* | Controlled | 3 | 409 |
| Maintained | 9 | 363 |
| Integrated | 6 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 12 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 2 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 5 | 239 |
| Southern | 4 | 199 |
| Western | 13 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.17.3 Approach Child’s School for Financial Help**

Parents were asked how comfortable they would feel about approaching their child’s school for financial help if they were struggling to pay the costs associated with sending them to the school.

Approximately one in five (21%) parents said they would be ‘very comfortable’ (7%) or ‘comfortable’ (14%) approaching their child’s school for financial help if they were struggling to pay the costs associated with sending them to the school. A majority (62%) of parents said they would be ‘uncomfortable’ (23%) or ‘very uncomfortable’ (39%), with 17% unsure how they would feel.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response and these are highlighted in Table 2.21.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.21 How comfortable would you feel about approaching your child’s school for financial help if you were struggling to pay the costs associated with sending them to the school by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | | | |
|  | | | Approaching child’s school for financial help | | | N |
| Comfortable | Uncomfortable | Don’t know |
| % | % | % |  |
| All parents | | | 21 | 62 | 17 | 1006 |
| Sex\* | Male | | 17 | 62 | 21 | 425 |
| Female | | 25 | 61 | 15 | 581 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 33 | 53 | 14 | 73 |
| No | 21 | 62 | 17 | 933 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | | Economically active | 19 | 63 | 17 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 29 | 55 | 16 | 220 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 25 | 61 | 14 | 331 |
| Medium | 18 | 63 | 19 | 565 |
| Low | 27 | 56 | 17 | 110 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 28 | 55 | 17 | 291 |
| No | 19 | 64 | 17 | 715 |
|  | | | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 23 | 62 | 15 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 26 | 57 | 17 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 16 | 68 | 16 | 506 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Post Primary\* | | Secondary | 15 | 69 | 15 | 357 |
| Grammar | 21 | 64 | 18 | 126 |
|  | | | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 17 | 64 | 19 | 409 |
| Maintained | 25 | 61 | 14 | 363 |
| Integrated | 25 | 57 | 18 | 209 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 17 | 74 | 9 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 25 | 44 | 31 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 12 | 76 | 12 | 239 |
| Southern | 24 | 66 | 11 | 199 |
| Western | 31 | 51 | 18 | 151 |
| Statistically significant | | | | | | |

### **2.17.4 Schools Helping to Relieve the Financial Burden on Parents**

Parents were asked to identify one thing that schools could do to help alleviate the financial burden on parents.

Parents made a range of suggestions [Tables 2.22] on what they believe schools can do to help alleviate the financial burden on parents, the most common of which were free / cheaper school uniforms (29%), free school meals / cheaper school meals (10%) and cheaper / free school trips (7%).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.22: If there was one thing that schools could do to help alleviate the financial burden on parents what would this be? (base=411) | | |
|  | % | N |
| Free / cheaper uniforms | 29.4 | 121 |
| Free meals for all, cheaper meals | 9.7 | 40 |
| Cheaper / free school trips | 6.6 | 27 |
| Provide grants / bursary / hardship fund / discounts | 6.3 | 26 |
| Less fundraising events, less asking for money | 6.1 | 25 |
| Access more government funding | 3.6 | 15 |
| Non-branded uniforms | 3.4 | 14 |
| Reduced school fees | 3.2 | 13 |
| Allow to get uniforms for different suppliers | 2.9 | 12 |
| Free / cheaper after school clubs / breakfast clubs | 2.9 | 12 |
| Spread payments (to the school) across the year | 2.4 | 10 |
| Cheaper P.E. kit | 2.4 | 10 |
| Free bus passes, cheaper travel | 2.2 | 9 |
| Free stationery / books | 1.9 | 8 |
| More information at the start of the year about extra costs | 1.9 | 8 |
| Cheaper shoes | 1.7 | 7 |
| Education should be free | 1.7 | 7 |
| Less guilt tripping of parents, less pressure | 1.5 | 6 |
| Have more fundraising to raise money (elsewhere) | 1.2 | 5 |
| Nicer staff, approachable, friendly | 1.2 | 5 |
| Feel it reflects on the child (non-payment of fees) | 1.2 | 5 |
| Be upfront about support that is available | 1.2 | 5 |
| Fewer non-uniform days | 1.0 | 4 |
| Free / cheaper computer equipment | 1.0 | 4 |
| Reduce cost for fancy dress / non-uniform day | 0.7 | 3 |
| Free music lessons | 0.7 | 3 |
| Extra-curricular activities should be free | 0.7 | 3 |
| Payments should be optional | 0.7 | 3 |
| No voluntary payments | 0.5 | 2 |
| Second-hand uniforms for sale | 0.5 | 2 |
| Introduce after school club | 0.5 | 2 |
| Family discount for larger families | 0.5 | 2 |
| Better quality uniform | 0.2 | 1 |
| School fees / uniform could be paid in instalments | 0.2 | 1 |
| Cheaper breakfast | 0.2 | 1 |
| Longer hours in after school club | 0.2 | 1 |
| Supply the team kit for school sports team | 0.2 | 1 |
| Fewer book days | 0.2 | 1 |
| Block paying for school meals | 0.2 | 1 |
| Free special needs equipment | 0.2 | 1 |
| Have a central fund for different things | 0.2 | 1 |
| School funded places | 0.2 | 1 |
| Less money on activities | 0.2 | 1 |
| Help with homework | 0.2 | 1 |
| Internal costs of admin could be decreased | 0.2 | 1 |
| Less activities | 0.2 | 1 |
| Less events at Christmas time | 0.2 | 1 |
| Not to expect homework to be computerized | 0.2 | 1 |
| Better access to I.T. equipment | 0.2 | 1 |
| Provide musical instruments and sports equipment | 0.2 | 1 |
| PTA substitute | 0.2 | 1 |
| Reduced price for special needs | 0.2 | 1 |
| Shouldn't have to pay for extra tuition | 0.2 | 1 |
| Cheaper PE Kit | 0.2 | 1 |
| Other | 1.2 | 5 |

2.18 Impact of School Costs

### **2.18.1 Going Without Other Things to Pay for School Costs**

Parents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement *‘My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs’.*

One in five (20%) parents ‘strongly agreed’ (3%) or ‘agreed’ (17%) with the statement *‘My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs’*. Seventy-five (75%) ‘disagreed’ (40%) or ‘strongly disagreed’ (35%) with this statement with 6% answering ‘don’t know’.

There were a number of statistically significant differences response between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.23.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.23 Agreement with statement: *‘My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs’* by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Statement:  *‘My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs’* | N |
| % Agree |
| All parents | | | 20 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | | 16 | 425 |
| Female | | 23 | 581 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 31 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 16 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 32 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 37 | 73 |
| No | 18 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | | Economically active | 17 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 31 | 220 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | | ABC1 | 15 | 507 |
| C2DE | 25 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 16 | 331 |
| Medium | 18 | 565 |
| Low | 37 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 17 | 558 |
| Two | 21 | 315 |
| Three+ | 31 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Single parent\* | | Yes | 32 | 222 |
| No | 16 | 770 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 32 | 291 |
| No | 15 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 10 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 19 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 24 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary | | Secondary | 26 | 357 |
| Grammar | 22 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 11 | 409 |
| Maintained | 27 | 363 |
| Integrated | 24 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 27 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 10 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 21 | 239 |
| Southern | 19 | 199 |
| Western | 29 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.18.2 Worrying about School Costs**

Parents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement *‘I worry about finding/affording the money to cover the costs of sending my child (ren) to school’.*

One in three (30%) parents ‘strongly agreed’ (6%) or ‘agreed’ (24%) with the statement *‘I worry about finding/affording the money to cover the costs of sending my child (ren) to school’*. Sixty-five (65%) ‘disagreed’ (32%) or ‘strongly disagreed’ (35%) with this statement with 6% answering ‘don’t know’.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.24.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.24 Agreement with statement: *‘**I worry about finding/affording the money to cover the costs of sending my child (ren) to school’* by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Statement:  *‘I worry about finding/affording the money to cover the costs of sending my child (ren) to school’* | N |
| % Agree |
| All parents | | | 30 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | | 25 | 425 |
| Female | | 33 | 581 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 38 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 26 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 47 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 41 | 73 |
| No | 29 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | | Economically active | 27 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 40 | 220 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | | ABC1 | 23 | 507 |
| C2DE | 37 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 24 | 331 |
| Medium | 31 | 565 |
| Low | 44 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 26 | 558 |
| Two | 32 | 315 |
| Three+ | 41 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 43 | 291 |
| No | 25 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type\* | | Pre-school children | 20 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 31 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 32 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary\* | | Secondary | 35 | 357 |
| Grammar | 25 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type\* | | Controlled | 20 | 409 |
| Maintained | 40 | 363 |
| Integrated | 32 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 48 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 13 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 25 | 239 |
| Southern | 39 | 199 |
| Western | 38 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.18.3 Getting into Debt to Pay Education Costs**

Parents were asked if they had ever got into debt to pay for their child (ren)’s education costs, with five percent (5%) reporting getting into debt to pay for their child’s (ren’s) education costs.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.25. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.25 Have you ever got into debt to pay for your child’s (ren) education costs by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | Got into debt to pay my child’s education costs  (%) | N |
| All parents | | | 5 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | | 3 | 425 |
| Female | | 7 | 581 |
|  | | | | |
| Marital Status\* | Single | | 10 | 176 |
| Married / cohabiting | | 3 | 737 |
| Separated / widowed / divorced | | 8 | 93 |
|  | | | | |
| Limiting long-term illness\* | | Yes | 15 | 73 |
| No | 4 | 933 |
|  | | | | |
| Economic Activity\* | | Economically active | 4 | 786 |
| Economically inactive | 9 | 220 |
|  | | | | |
| Social Class\* | | ABC1 | 3 | 507 |
| C2DE | 7 | 499 |
|  | | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | | High | 4 | 331 |
| Medium | 4 | 565 |
| Low | 11 | 110 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 4 | 558 |
| Two | 5 | 315 |
| Three+ | 9 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| Single parent\* | | Yes | 10 | 222 |
| No | 3 | 770 |
|  | | | | |
| Free school meals\* | | Yes | 10 | 291 |
| No | 3 | 715 |
|  | | | | |
| School type | | Pre-school children | 3 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 5 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 6 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary | | Secondary | 6 | 357 |
| Grammar | 6 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type | | Controlled | 4 | 409 |
| Maintained | 6 | 363 |
| Integrated | 6 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 13 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 2 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 1 | 239 |
| Southern | 4 | 199 |
| Western | 9 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

### **2.18.4 Reasons for Getting into Debt to Pay Education Costs**

The reasons the last time parents got into debt to pay for their child’s (ren) education included: after school clubs (n=1); bins for school fayre (n=1); child’s needs (n=1); class trip (n=1); iPad / tablet (n=3); milk (n=1); new shoes (n=2); PE kit (n=1); school trip (n=7); school (n=1); sending child to school (n=1); sports shoes (n=1); start of year / term (n=1); tuition fees (n=1); uniform (14); voluntary subscription (n=1); and, Christmas (n=1).

### **2.18.5 Source of Loan to Pay Education Costs**

Among the 5% (n=45) of parents who said they got into debt to pay for their child’s education, most (58%) said they had borrowed money from a family member, with 11% using an overdraft, 9% a friend, 4% a payday loan and 9% other sources[[6]](#footnote-6).

### **2.18.6 Use of Payday Loan to Pay Education Costs**

Two percent (n=23) of parents reported using a payday loan to pay for their child’s (ren) education costs *(note that the cell sizes are too small to facilitate sub group analysis).*

### **2.18.7 School Costs at Particular Times of the Year**

Parents were asked if there are more school costs at particular times of the year, with approximately one in three (34%) agreeing that there are more school costs at particular times of the year.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.26. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.26 Do you find there are more school costs at particular times of the school year by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | |
|  | | | More school costs at particular times of the year  (%) | N |
| All parents | | | 34 | 1006 |
|  | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | | 29 | 425 |
| Female | | 38 | 581 |
|  | | | | |
| Number of children\* | | One | 24 | 558 |
| Two | 42 | 315 |
| Three+ | 57 | 133 |
|  | | | | |
| School type | | Pre-school children | 30 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 39 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 34 | 506 |
|  | | | | |
| Post Primary\* | | Secondary | 33 | 357 |
| Grammar | 47 | 126 |
|  | | | | |
| School management type | | Controlled | 37 | 409 |
| Maintained | 34 | 363 |
| Integrated | 37 | 209 |
|  | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | | Belfast | 40 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 29 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 36 | 239 |
| Southern | 25 | 199 |
| Western | 45 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | | |

Parents were asked to say which time of year is most expensive in terms of school costs. Among those who answered the question (n=336), a majority (60%) cited the beginning of the academic year / start of first term / September (Table 2.27).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.27: Which time of year is most expensive for parents in terms of school costs? (base=336) | | |
|  | % | N |
| At the beginning of the academic year/start of first term/September | 60 | 203 |
| The beginning/start of term | 12 | 40 |
| Christmas holidays/December | 10 | 34 |
| Summer holiday period/July and August | 7 | 25 |
| At exam time | 6 | 19 |
| End of term | 3 | 9 |
| Buying new school uniforms | 3 | 10 |
| Just before Summer holidays - end of year/term events | 2 | 7 |
| School trips | 2 | 7 |
| Holiday periods | 1 | 3 |
| Spring term/Easter holidays | 1 | 4 |
| Halloween | 1 | 2 |
| When kids need Sports Equipment | 1 | 2 |
| School fundraising events | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 5 |

2.19 Awareness that Government Provides Additional Funding for FSM Children

Parents were asked if they are aware that when a child is entitled to free school meals, the government also provides their school with additional funding. Approximately one in four (23%) parents said they were aware of this.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in the likelihood of having given a charitable donation in the last year between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.28. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.28 Are you aware that, when a child is entitled to free school meals that the government also provides their school with additional funding by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | |
|  | | Aware that Government provides school with additional funding when children are entitled to FSM  (%) | N |
| All parentse | | 23 | 1006 |
|  | | | |
| Educational attainment\* | High | 28 | 331 |
| Medium | 21 | 565 |
| Low | 17 | 110 |
|  | | | |
| Free School Meals | Yes | 26 | 291 |
| No | 21 | 715 |
|  | | | |
| School type | Pre-school children | 30 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 23 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 24 | 506 |
|  | | | |
| Post Primary | Secondary | 22 | 357 |
| Grammar | 32 | 126 |
|  | | | |
| School management type | Controlled | 21 | 409 |
| Maintained | 25 | 363 |
| Integrated | 24 | 209 |
|  | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 25 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 16 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 24 | 239 |
| Southern | 12 | 199 |
| Western | 44 | 151 |
| \*Statistically significant | | | |

### **2.19.1 Support for Additional Govt. Funding to Cover Some of Child’s School Costs**

Parents were asked if they were supportive of making some of the additional funding *(available to schools when child is entitled to free school meals)* available to cover some of the child’s school costs that the parents are normally asked to cover. Just over half (57%) of parents were supportive.

2.20 Cost of Education Matching Parental Expectations

Towards the end of the survey, and based on their responses to previous questions, parents were presented with an estimate of how much they had spent on their child’s (ren’s) education in the last year. Given this figure, parents were then asked if the amount was what they expected they had spent.

Figure 2.55 shows that four out of ten (40%) parents felt the figure was more than expected, with 56% saying it was about what they expected and 4% saying it was less than they had expected.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in the likelihood of having given a charitable donation in the last year between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.29. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.29 Is this [cost estimated] more or less than you thought or about what you expected you had spent by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | | |
|  | | Approaching child’s school for financial help | | | N |
| More than expected | About what I expected | Less than expected |
| % | % | % |  |
| All parents | | 40 | 56 | 4 | 1006 |
|  | | | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 32 | 63 | 5 | 558 |
| Two | 49 | 47 | 4 | 315 |
| Three+ | 52 | 46 | 3 | 133 |
|  | | | | | |
| School type | Pre-school children | 42 | 57 | 2 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 42 | 54 | 4 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 42 | 54 | 4 | 506 |
|  | | | | | |
| Post Primary | Secondary | 45 | 52 | 4 | 357 |
| Grammar | 38 | 58 | 4 | 126 |
|  | | | | | |
| School management type | Controlled | 40 | 57 | 3 | 409 |
| Maintained | 41 | 54 | 6 | 363 |
| Integrated | 46 | 49 | 5 | 209 |
|  | | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 46 | 51 | 3 | 152 |
| North Eastern | 43 | 55 | 3 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 29 | 67 | 4 | 239 |
| Southern | 48 | 45 | 7 | 199 |
| Western | 36 | 60 | 4 | 151 |
| Statistically significant | | | | | |

### **2.20.1 Views on the Cost Estimated**

Parents were asked if they felt the cost of education estimated in the survey was about right, too much or too little. A majority (58%) of parents believed that the cost of education estimated in the survey was ‘about right’, with 41% saying it was ‘too much’ and 1% saying it was ‘too little’. Note that the pattern of response to this question is consistent with parental expectations around what they felt they had spent on education in the previous year.

There were a number of statistically significant differences in the likelihood of having given a charitable donation in the last year between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.30. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically significant.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.30 Do you feel this [cost estimate] is too little, about right or too much by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006] | | | | | |
|  | | Views on the cost of education | | | N |
| Too little | About right | Too much |
| % | % | % |  |
| All parents | | 1 | 58 | 41 | 1006 |
|  | | | | | |
| Sex\* | Male | - | 63 | 37 | 425 |
| Female | 1 | 55 | 44 | 581 |
|  | | | | | |
| Number of children\* | One | 1 | 65 | 34 | 558 |
| Two | 1 | 53 | 46 | 315 |
| Three+ | 0 | 41 | 59 | 133 |
|  | | | | | |
| School type | Pre-school children | 1 | 65 | 33 | 60 |
| Primary school children | 1 | 59 | 41 | 621 |
| Post primary school children | 1 | 51 | 48 | 506 |
|  | | | | | |
| Post Primary | Secondary | - | 49 | 51 | 357 |
| Grammar | 3 | 47 | 50 | 126 |
|  | | | | | |
| School management type | Controlled | 1 | 60 | 39 | 409 |
| Maintained | 1 | 54 | 45 | 363 |
| Integrated | 1 | 52 | 47 | 209 |
|  | | | | | |
| Education and Library Board Area \* | Belfast | 1 | 55 | 44 | 152 |
| North Eastern | - | 59 | 41 | 265 |
| South Eastern | 1 | 70 | 29 | 239 |
| Southern | 1 | 45 | 54 | 199 |
| Western | 1 | 58 | 40 | 151 |
| Statistically significant | | | | | |

2.21 Further Comment on the Cost of Education

Parents were asked to make additional comment on the cost education, the most common of which was that education is too expensive (26%) [Table 2.31].

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Table 2.31: Additional comments made by parents on the cost of education (base=211) | | |
|  | % | N |
| Too expensive | 26.1 | 55 |
| More government funding needed | 10.9 | 23 |
| Free / cheaper uniforms | 6.6 | 14 |
| Education is important | 5.7 | 12 |
| Education should be free | 4.3 | 9 |
| They get a good education | 4.3 | 9 |
| Shocked / amazed at the cost | 3.8 | 8 |
| Provide grants / bursary / hardship fund / discounts | 2.8 | 6 |
| Can be hard on some parents (low income) | 2.8 | 6 |
| Free meals for all, cheaper meals | 2.4 | 5 |
| Cheaper P.E. kit | 2.4 | 5 |
| That's the way it is | 2.4 | 5 |
| Free bus passes, cheaper travel | 1.9 | 4 |
| Cheaper / free school trips | 1.9 | 4 |
| Cheaper shoes, boots, trainers | 1.9 | 4 |
| Allow to get uniforms for different suppliers | 1.9 | 4 |
| Teachers are the key so keep them happy | 1.4 | 3 |
| Primary school not as expensive | 1.4 | 3 |
| Less fundraising events, less asking for money | 1.4 | 3 |
| Allow pupils to wear their own clothes | 0.9 | 2 |
| Confirmation, Communion, Confession attire too expensive | 0.9 | 2 |
| I could not have spent as much as this estimate | 0.9 | 2 |
| Annoying how school has to keep asking parents for money | 0.9 | 2 |
| Not sure how the figures were calculated | 0.9 | 2 |
| Education isn't based on cost it based on what school you go to | 0.9 | 2 |
| Extra-curricular activities should be free | 0.9 | 2 |
| Make everyone pay the same | 0.9 | 2 |
| Struggle with payments | 0.9 | 2 |
| Parents will do what it takes for their kids | 0.9 | 2 |
| Free milk | 0.5 | 1 |
| Fewer non-uniform days | 0.5 | 1 |
| Increase uniform grant | 0.5 | 1 |
| Improve quality of school dinners | 0.5 | 1 |
| Reduced price for special needs | 0.5 | 1 |
| Less events at Christmas time | 0.5 | 1 |
| Non-branded uniforms | 0.5 | 1 |
| Spread payments (to the school) across the year | 0.5 | 1 |
| In comparison to English schools we are better off | 0.5 | 1 |
| I'm worried about the next stage 3rd level | 0.5 | 1 |
| Children should not be affected by whether their parents can | 0.5 | 1 |
| Money should be used for teaching rather than dinners etc | 0.5 | 1 |
| It is cheaper for some parents | 0.5 | 1 |
| Reduce child care prices | 0.5 | 1 |
| Free cheaper after school clubs / breakfast clubs | 0.5 | 1 |
| Better quality uniform | 0.5 | 1 |

# Appendix (Questionnaire)



**Questionnaire**

Survey on Cost of Education

[PR-Cost of Education-16/17]

**March 2017**



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X1. INTERVIEWER Record gender

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Male | 1 |
| Female | 2 |

X2. What was your age last birthday? **RECORD AGE**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

X3. What is your marital status? **CODE ONE ONLY - SHOWCARD A**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Single | 1 |
| Married | 2 |
| Living as married | 3 |
| Separated | 4 |
| Divorced | 5 |
| Widowed | 6 |

X4. What is your current education/training/employment status? **(Select one only)**

**- SHOWCARD B**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Self-employed | 1 |
| Working full-time | 2 |
| Working part-time | 3 |
| Seeking work for the first time | 4 |
| Unemployed, i.e. not working but actively seeking work | 5 |
| Not actively seeking work but would like to work | 6 |
| Not working and not seeking work | 7 |
| Looking after home and family | 8 |
| Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability | 9 |
| Student (full time) | 10 |
| Student (part time) | 11 |
| On a government or other training scheme / apprenticeship | 12 |
| Retired | 13 |
| Other (please specify) | 14 |

X5. What is/was the occupation of the person with the highest income within your household?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

X6. **INTERVIEWER TO RECORD** – Socio-economic grouping **- (Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 1 |
| B | 2 |
| C1 | 3 |
| C2 | 4 |
| D | 5 |
| E | 6 |

X7. What is your highest educational qualification? **- (Select one only) - SHOWCARD C**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Degree Level or higher | 1 |
| BTEC (Higher), BEC (Higher), TEC (Higher), HNC, HND | 2 |
| GCE A’ Level (including NVQ Level 3) | 3 |
| BTEC (National), BEC (National), TEC (National), ONC, OND | 4 |
| GCSE (including NVQ Level 2), GCE O’Level (including CSE Grade 1), Senior Certificate, BTEC (General), BEC (General) | 5 |
| CSE (Other than Grade 1) | 6 |
| Other (Please specify) | 7 |
| No formal qualification | 8 |
| Refused | 9 |

X8. Please tell me about the school aged children in your household. How many school-aged children are in your household i.e. from pre-school through to post-primary school? **[Please include your school-aged children who do not currently live with you and who you contribute to their education costs]**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

X9. What is your community background? **(Select one only) - SHOWCARD D**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Protestant | 1 |
| Catholic | 2 |
| None | 3 |
| Other (please specify) [pop up box] | 4 |
| (Refused) | 5 |

X10. Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems which are due to ageing. **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes, limited a lot | 1 |
| Yes, limited a little | 2 |
| No | 3 |
| Refused | 99 |

X11. Are you living as a single parent? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| (Refused) | 3 |

X12. How many children do you have attending pre-school, primary and post-primary schools?

**(Enter number)**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

X13. To be completed for each school-aged child: **(Complete for each child) - SHOWCARD E**

*[Interviewer note: category of ‘independent’ should include pre-school provision not attached to a school e.g. voluntary / private]*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Child 1 | Child 2 | Child 3 | Child 4 | Child 5 etc. |
| Child’s initial | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | | |
| Age | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | | |
| Gender | Male | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Female | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
|  | | | | | | |
| School | Pre-school | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| primary | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Post-primary | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
|  | | | | | | |
| School type | Protestant - controlled | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Catholic - maintained | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Integrated | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Irish medium | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| special school | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Independent | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| post 16 further education college | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Post-primary | secondary | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| fee paying grammar | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| non-fee paying grammar | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Not applicable | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
|  | | | | | | |
| Free school meal | Yes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

X14. What is your postcode? **EXPLAIN: YOUR POSTCODE INFORMATION WILL BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY TO ALLOW US TO LINK DATA TO GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. YOUR DATA WILL BE PRESENTED ONLY AT AN AGGREGATED LEVEL AND WILL NOT BE USED TO IDENTIFY YOU OR YOUR HOUSEHOLD IN ANY WAY.**

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT WHOLE POSTCODE IS RECORDED**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **B** | **T** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

X15. INTERVIEWER RECORD LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT: **(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Antrim | 1 | Down | 14 |
| Ards | 2 | Dungannon | 15 |
| Armagh | 3 | Fermanagh | 16 |
| Ballymena | 4 | Larne | 17 |
| Ballymoney | 5 | Limavady | 18 |
| Banbridge | 6 | Lisburn | 19 |
| Belfast | 7 | Magherafelt | 20 |
| Carrickfergus | 8 | Moyle | 21 |
| Castlereagh | 9 | Newry & Mourne | 22 |
| Coleraine | 10 | Newtownabbey | 23 |
| Cookstown | 11 | North Down | 24 |
| Craigavon | 12 | Omagh | 25 |
| Derry | 13 | Strabane | 26 |

X16. INERTERVIEWER RECORD SAMPLE POINT NUMBER:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

X17. INTERVIEWER RECORD INTERVIEWER NUMBER:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section A: School Uniform Costs**

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: Throughout the survey where the parent can’t recall the exact cost then record an approximate cost. If a parent specifies a range e.g. between £10 and £20 then record the mid-point i.e. in this case £15.**

A1. Over the past year, what was the total amount you spent on school uniforms for each of your children? [If parent is struggling to recall record approximate amount – if don’t know record 999] **(Complete for each child)**

**School uniform includes:** shirts; blouses; ties; blazers; skirts; trousers; caps; overcoats; shoes etc. (INTERVIEWER NOTE: does not include PE uniform which is separate)

**Please note that PE clothing will be covered later in the survey**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **School uniform** |
| **£** |
| Child 1 [programmer note – throughout forward write child’s initial from grid at X13] |  |
| Child 2 [programmer note - throughout forward write child’s initial from grid at X13] |  |
| Child 3 [programmer note - throughout forward write child’s initial from grid at X13] |  |
| Child 4 [programmer note - throughout forward write child’s initial from grid at X13] |  |
| Chid 5 etc. [programmer note - throughout forward write child’s initial from grid at X13] |  |

A2. Thinking about school uniforms, were you required to purchase uniform items from the school directly or from particular suppliers? **(Complete for each child) - SHOWCARD F**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | School directly | Particular suppliers | Both school and particular suppliers | No, free to use any supplier |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**[if 1,2, or 3 for any child at A2 answer A3 for specific child else go to A4]**

A3. How much uniform were you required to purchase from the school directly or from particular suppliers? **(Complete for each child as appropriate) - SHOWCARD G**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | All of it | Most items | Some items |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

A4. Did you get a uniform grant for your child (ren)? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No, did not get a uniform grant for my child (ren) |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |
| No, did not get a uniform grant for my child (ren) | 1 | 22 |

**Section B: PE Clothing, Footwear and Equipment**

B1. In the last school year, what was the total amount you spent on PE clothing and footwear?

[If parent is struggling to recall record approximate amount – if don’t know record 999]

**(Complete for each child)**

**PE clothing, footwear and equipment includes:** sports tops; shorts; skirts; gym gear; trainers; football boots; sports bags etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **PE Clothing and footwear** |
| **£** |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |

B2. Were you required to purchase PE clothing and footwear from the school directly or from particular suppliers? **(Complete for each child) - SHOWCARD H**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | School directly | Particular suppliers | Both school and particular suppliers | No, free to use any supplier |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**[if 1,2, or 3 for any child at B2 answer B3 for specific child else go to Section C]**

B3. How much PE clothing, footwear and equipment were you required to purchase from the school directly or from particular suppliers? **(Complete for each child as appropriate) - SHOWCARD I**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | All of it | Most items | Some items |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**Section C: Equipment for Lessons**

C1. Which of the following items of equipment were you required by the school to purchase?

**(Complete for each child) - SHOWCARD J**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Pens / pencils | Other stationery (e.g. paper, files, folders, eraser, compass, protractor, set square, folders, files, sharpners etc.) | Calculator | Schoolbag | Text books / reference books | Material for lessons (e.g. art, cookery, practical projects) | Musical instruments | Computer equipment (e.g. laptop, iPad etc.) | Nothing | Other (specify) [pop up] |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

C2. Approximately how much did you spend during the past year in providing equipment for lessons? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |
| Nothing |  |

**Section D: Transport Costs**

D1. Does your child get free school transport? **(Complete for each child)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

D2. Thinking about **an average school week** during the last school year, what was the total amount you spent on transport (i.e. getting your child (ren) to and from school). Costs should include: petrol / diesel costs, school pick up costs.

[If parent is struggling to recall record approximate amount – if don’t know record 999]

**(Complete for each child)**

**Transport costs include:** petrol / diesel costs for school pick up costs, bus tickets, taxis, public taxis etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Transport** |
| **£** |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |
| Nothing |  |

**Section E: School Meals**

E1. Does your child normally...? **(Complete for each child) - SHOWCARD K**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Take a school dinner | Take a packed lunch | Buy lunch away from the school site | Have lunch at home | Sometimes has lunches sometimes school dinners |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**[at E1 if coded 2,3,4, or 5 go to E2 and code for appropriate child]**

E2. Did the cost of school dinners affect your decision? **- (Complete for each child as appropriate) SHOWCARD**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

E3. Approximately how much do you spend per child, per day, on school meals?

**(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |

E4. Approximately how much do you spend per child, per day, on school snacks and drinks?

**(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |
| Nothing |  |

**Section F: School fees / voluntary contributions**

F1. In some schools, parents have to pay fees, while some others ask for annual ‘voluntary contributions’ and others don’t ask for either. Are you required to pay school fees or asked for voluntary contributions to your child’s school? **(Complete for each child)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | School fees | Voluntary contributions | Neither |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**[if 1 or 2 at F1 for any child then skip to F2 as appropriate for each child]**

F2. How much do you have to pay per school year? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |

**[answer F3 for each child coded 2 at F1 else go to Section G]**

F3. Do you feel under any pressure to pay this voluntary contribution?

**(Complete for each child as appropriate) - SHOWCARD L**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes, a lot of pressure | Yes, some pressure | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**[if coded 1 or 2 for any child at F3 go to F4 else go to Section G]**

F4. Please explain that?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section G: Educational Visits**

G1. Over the past year, how many outings did you have to pay for which your child went on with their whole class?

**INTERVIEWER NOTE:** This refers to trips which whole classes go on mostly during the school day, and not additional/optional ones such as ski trips etc. These are dealt with in the next section

**(Complete for each child)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | None | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | More than 5 |
| Child 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Child 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Child 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Child 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**[if G1 gt 0 go to G2 as appropriate for each child else go to G3]**

G2. Approximately how much money have you spend on educational visits/class outings for your child (ren) in the last year? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Child 5 etc. |  |
| Nothing |  |

G3. Over the past year were you unable to allow your child or children to participate in any educational visit / class outing due to cost? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

**Section H: Additional Trips and Holidays**

H1. Does your child’s school organize additional, optional trips or holidays that isn’t a class or subject trip (e.g. ski trips, camping holidays, excursions to celebrate the end of the school term / year)? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

**[ask H2 for each child coded 1 at H1 else go to Section I]**

H2. Over the past year, how many of these additional trips or holidays did you pay for your child? **(Complete for each child)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | None | 1 | 2 | 3 or more |
| Child 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**[ask H3 if H2 = 1,2, or 3 for any child at H2 else to go H4]**

H3. Approximately how much money did you spend on these additional trips or holidays for your child (ren) in the last year? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |
| Nothing |  |

H4. Over the past year were you unable to allow your child or children to participate in any of these additional trips or holidays due to cost? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

**Section I: Charitable Donations**

I1. In the past year have you made charitable donations, contributions for non-uniform days or sponsored activities (e.g. fancy dress days for a particular cause etc.)? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 | Go to I2 |
| No | 2 | Go to Section J |

I2. Approximately how much have you spent over the past year on charitable days, sponsorships, non-uniform days, fancy dress days etc.? **(Complete for each child)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |

**Section J: Before / After / Optional School Activities**

J1. Over the past year have you paid for any of the following additional activities at school? [INTERVIEWER NOTE: This doesn’t include formal childcare provision]

**(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Breakfast club | Afterschool clubs | Music tuition | Other  (Specify | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**[if 5 for all children go to Section K else go to J2]**

J2. Approximately what is the cost per week? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |

**Section K: Homework Costs**

K1. Does your child (ren) need computer equipment, printer, access to the internet etc. to complete their homework? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 | Go to K1 |
| No | 2 | Go to K2 |

K2. Approximately how much have you spent over the past year on equipment and supplies to allow your child to do homework? **(Complete for each child as appropriate) [note that the earlier question related to equipment used in school)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Child 1 |  |
| Child 2 |  |
| Child 3 |  |
| Child 4 |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |

**Section L: School Fundraising Events**

L1. Over the past year has your child/ren’s school(s) held social fundraising events for pupils and/or parents e.g. school fairs, discos, concerts etc.?  **(Code for each child)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Child 1 | 1 | Go to L2 |
| Child 2 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 4 |
| Child 5 etc. | 5 |
| No | 6 | Go to Section M |

L2. Over the past year, how much would you estimate you have spent on these social fundraising events**? (Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Child 1 | 1 |
| Child 2 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 4 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 5 |
| Nothing | 6 |

**Section M: Educational Needs**

M1. Do any of your children have special educational needs (SEN)?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Child 1 | 1 | Go to M2 |
| Child 2 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 4 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 5 |
| No | 6 | Go to Section N |

M2. Over the past year, have you had to spend money on any other activities or items relating to your child’s special needs and that we have not yet covered? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes |  |
| Child 1 | 1 | Go to M3 |
| Child 2 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 3 |
| Child 4 | 4 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 5 |
| No | 6 | Go to Section N |

M3. What have you had to spend money on and how much have you spent on these activities / items? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Activity / item | £ |
| Child 1 |  |  |
| Child 2 |  |  |
| Child 3 |  |  |
| Child 4 |  |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |  |

**Section O: Other Costs**

O1. Over the past year have you spent money on extra tuition for your child? **(Code for each child)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

**[if 1 for any child at O1 go to O2 else go to O3]**

O2.If yes, how much have you spent over the past year on extra tuition, and why was this needed?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | £ | Reason for tuition |
| Child 1 |  |  |
| Child 2 |  |  |
| Child 3 |  |  |
| Child 4 |  |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |  |

O3. Over the past year, have you had to spend money on any other activities or items which are school based and which we haven’t covered yet? **(Code for each child)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

**[if 1 for any child at O3 go to O4 else go to Section P]**

O4. Over the past year, what have you had to spend money on and how much have you spent on these activities / items? **(Complete for each child as appropriate)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Activity / item | £ |
| Child 1 |  |  |
| Child 2 |  |  |
| Child 3 |  |  |
| Child 4 |  |  |
| Chid 5 etc. |  |  |

**Section P: Communications with School**

P1. Prior to sending your child to the school they attend, did you know beforehand roughly how much it would cost? **(Complete for each child)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 |

P2. Were the costs associated with sending your child to school a major factor affecting your choice of school, a minor factor, or did you not consider cost at all in the decision?

**(Complete for each child as appropriate) - SHOWCARD R**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes, a major factor | Yes, a minor factor | Not a factor | Don’t know |
| Child 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Child 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Chid 5 etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

P3. How comfortable would you feel about approaching your child’s school for financial help if you were struggling to pay the costs associated with sending them to the school? **(Select one only) - SHOWCARD M**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Very comfortable | 1 |
| Comfortable | 2 |
| Uncomfortable | 3 |
| Very uncomfortable | 4 |
| (Don’t know) | 5 |

P4. If there was one thing that schools could do to help alleviate the financial burden on parents what would this be?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section Q: Impact of Costs**

Q1. Please say if you agree or disagree with the following statements? **(Code for each statement)**

**- SHOWCARD N**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | (Don’t know) |
| My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I worry about finding/affording the money to cover the costs of sending my child (ren) to school | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Q2. Have you ever got into debt to pay for your child’s (ren) education costs? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 | Go to Q3 |
| No | 2 | Go to Q5 |

Q3. On the last occasion, you had to borrow money, what was this for?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Q4. Who did you borrow this money from? **(Select one only) - SHOWCARD O**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family | 1 |
| Friend | 2 |
| Overdraft | 3 |
| Credit card | 4 |
| Pay day loan (legal company) | 5 |
| Pay day loan (illegal company) | 6 |
| Other (please specify) [pop up box] | 7 |

Q5. Have you ever used a payday loan to pay for your child’s (ren) education costs? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

Q6. Do you find there are more school costs at particular times of the school year? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 | Go to Q7 |
| No | 2 | Go to Q8 |

Q7. Which time of the year is most expensive for parents in relation to school costs? **(Insert answer)**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Q8. Are you aware that, when a child is entitled to free school meals that the government also provides their school with additional funding? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

Q9. Do you feel that some of this funding should be made available to cover some of the child’s school costs that the parents are normally asked to cover? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don’t know | 3 |

Q10. Based on your responses, it estimated that you have paid **[forward write amount spent]** on school costs over the past year.

Is this more or less than you thought or about what you expected you had spent? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| More than expected | 1 |
| About what I expected | 2 |
| Less than expected | 3 |

Q11. Do you feel this is too little, about right or too much? **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Too little | 1 |
| About right | 2 |
| Too much | 3 |

Q12. Do you have any further comments on the costs of education? **(Insert answer)**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section R: Awareness of Children’s Rights and NICCY**

R1. Are you aware that there are specific rights for children and young people, or not?  **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don’t know | 3 |

R2. Have you heard of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or the UNCRC?    **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |
| Don’t know | 3 |

R3. Before today, have you heard of an organisation for children called NICCY (pronounced NICKY), or not?   **(Select one only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

R4. Before today have you heard of the Children’s Commissioner for Northern Ireland, or not?  **(Select one only)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | 1 | * Go to R5 |
| No | 2 | Thank and Close |
| Don’t know | 3 | Thank and Close |

R5. Which of the following, if any, do you think the Children’s Commissioner does?

**(Tick all that apply) - SHOWCARD P**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carries out school inspections | 1 |
| Protects and promotes the rights of children and young people | 2 |
| Advise government on implementing children’s rights | 3 |
| Gives money to other organisations for children to do projects | 4 |
| Investigates complaints against public bodies on behalf of children and young people | 5 |
| Not aware does any of the above | 6 |

**THANK AND CLOSE**

1. Local Government Districts: based on ‘legacy’ 26 local council areas to provide greater geographical spread within the sample. The ‘legacy’ council areas also coterminous with education and library board area and other administrative units in Northern Ireland. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. NI Population Census – 2011 - CT0136NI: THEME TABLE ON PARENTS BY SEX [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Social class definition based on the National Readership Survey (NRS) and used widely in market research to classify occupations (A: upper middle class; B: middle class; C1: lower middle class; C2: skilled working class; D: working class; E: non-working) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Local Government Districts: based on ‘legacy’ 26 local council areas to provide greater geographical spread within the sample. The ‘legacy’ council areas also coterminous with education and library board area and other administrative units in Northern Ireland. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Based on 2014 mid-year census of population estimates [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Includes: credit union (n=2); local loan firm (n=1); and, savings (n=1) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)