



Report

**Survey on Cost of Education
[PR-Cost of Education-16/17]**

29 August 2017



Contents

1.	Introduction.....	9
1.1	Context	9
1.2	Measuring Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions	9
1.3	Research.....	9
1.3.1	Research Aim.....	9
1.3.2	Research Objectives	9
1.4	Methodology	10
1.4.1	Sampling	10
1.4.2	Stratification by Area.....	11
1.4.3	Questionnaire	11
1.4.4	Data Collection.....	11
1.5	ISO20252	12
1.6	Notes on Reporting.....	12
2.	Survey Findings.....	13
2.1	Average Annual Total Cost of Education	13
2.1.1	Average Annual Total Cost of Education per Child	13
2.1.2	Annual Spend by Cost Item (All children)	14
2.1.3	Annual Spend by Cost Item (Pre-school pupils)	15
2.1.4	Annual Spend by Cost Item (Primary school pupils)	16
2.1.5	Annual Spend by Cost Item (Post primary school pupils)	17
2.2	School Uniforms	18
2.2.1	Average Annual Cost of Uniforms per Child.....	18
2.2.2	Purchase of Uniforms from Schools Directly and Other Suppliers.....	19
2.2.3	Amount of Uniform Required to Purchase from Schools or Particular Suppliers.....	20
2.2.4	Uniform Grants.....	21
2.3	PE Clothing, Footwear and Equipment	23
2.3.1	Average Annual Cost of PE Clothing, Footwear, Equip. per Child	23
2.3.2	Purchase of PE Clothing, Footwear, Equipment	24
2.3.3	Amount of PE Clothing, Footwear, Equipment Required to Purchase.....	26
2.4	Equipment for Lessons.....	27
2.4.1	Equipment Purchased.....	27
2.4.2	Average Annual Cost of Equipment for Lessons per Child.....	28
2.5	Transport Costs.....	29
2.5.1	Free School Transport	29
2.5.2	Average Weekly Cost of Transport per Child	31
2.5.3	Average Annual Cost of Transport per Child	32
2.6	School Meals.....	33
2.6.1	Entitlement to Free School Meals.....	33
2.6.2	School Dinner and Other Options.....	35
2.6.3	Average Daily Cost of School Meals.....	37
2.6.4	Average Annual Cost of School Meals.....	38
2.6.5	Average Daily Cost of Snacks and Drinks	39
2.6.6	Average Annual Cost of Snacks and Drinks	40
2.7	School Fees / Voluntary Contributions.....	41
2.7.1	Paying School Fees or being Asked for Voluntary Contributions	41
2.7.2	Average Annual Cost of Fees / Voluntary Contributions per Child	42
2.7.3	Parents Feeling Under Pressure to Pay Voluntary Contribution	43

2.8	Educational Visits / Class Outings	46
2.8.1	Number of Educational Visits / Class Outings in Last Year Paying For	46
2.8.2	Average Annual Cost of Educational Visits / Class Outings per Child	48
2.8.3	Children Participating in Educational Visits / Class Outings and Cost	49
2.9	Additional Trips and Holidays	51
2.9.1	Availability of Additional Trips and Holidays	51
2.9.2	Paying for Additional Trips and Holidays	52
2.9.3	Average Annual Cost of Additional Trips or Holidays per Child	54
2.9.4	Child(ren) Participating in Additional Trips or Holidays and Cost	55
2.10	Charitable Donations	57
2.10.1	Making Charitable Donations	57
2.10.2	Average Annual Cost of Charitable Donations per Child	59
2.11	Before /After / Optional School Activities	60
2.11.1	Paying for Before /After / Optional School Activities	60
2.11.2	Average Weekly Cost of Before/After/Optional Activities per Child	62
2.12	Homework Costs	63
2.12.1	Computer Equip. and Resources Needed for Homework	63
2.12.2	Average Annual Cost of Computer Equip. for Homework per Child	65
2.13	School Fundraising Events	66
2.13.1	Parents Reporting School Fundraising Events	66
2.13.2	Average Annual Cost of School Fundraising Events per Child	67
2.14	Special Educational Needs	68
2.14.1	Prevalence of Special Educational Needs	68
2.14.2	Cost of Items Related to Special Educational Needs per Child	70
2.15	Extra Tuition	70
2.15.1	Spending on Extra Tuition	70
2.15.2	Average Annual Cost of Extra Tuition per Child	71
2.16	Spending on Other Activities and Items	72
2.16.1	Prevalence of Spending on Other Activities or Items	72
2.17	Communication with Schools	72
2.17.1	Parental Awareness of the Cost of Sending Child (ren) to School	72
2.17.2	Cost a Factor Affecting Choice of School	74
2.17.3	Approach Child's School for Financial Help	75
2.17.4	Schools Helping to Relieve the Financial Burden on Parents	77
2.18	Impact of School Costs	79
2.18.1	Going Without Other Things to Pay for School Costs	79
2.18.2	Worrying about School Costs	81
2.18.3	Getting into Debt to Pay Education Costs	83
2.18.4	Reasons for Getting into Debt to Pay Education Costs	85
2.18.5	Source of Loan to Pay Education Costs	85
2.18.6	Use of Payday Loan to Pay Education Costs	85
2.18.7	School Costs at Particular Times of the Year	86
2.19	Awareness that Government Provides Additional Funding for FSM Children	88
2.19.1	Support for Additional Govt. Funding to Cover Some of Child's School Costs	89
2.20	Cost of Education Matching Parental Expectations	90
2.20.1	Views on the Cost Estimated	91
2.21	Further Comment on the Cost of Education	93
	Appendix (Questionnaire)	95

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 £421.21 on 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 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'.

1. 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 residence¹ (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.

		NISRA 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	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 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.

² NI Population Census – 2011 - CT0136NI: THEME TABLE ON PARENTS BY SEX

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)

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 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]):

Local Govt. District (LGD)	% Population 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.

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.

⁵ Based on 2014 mid-year census of population estimates

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.

2. Survey Findings

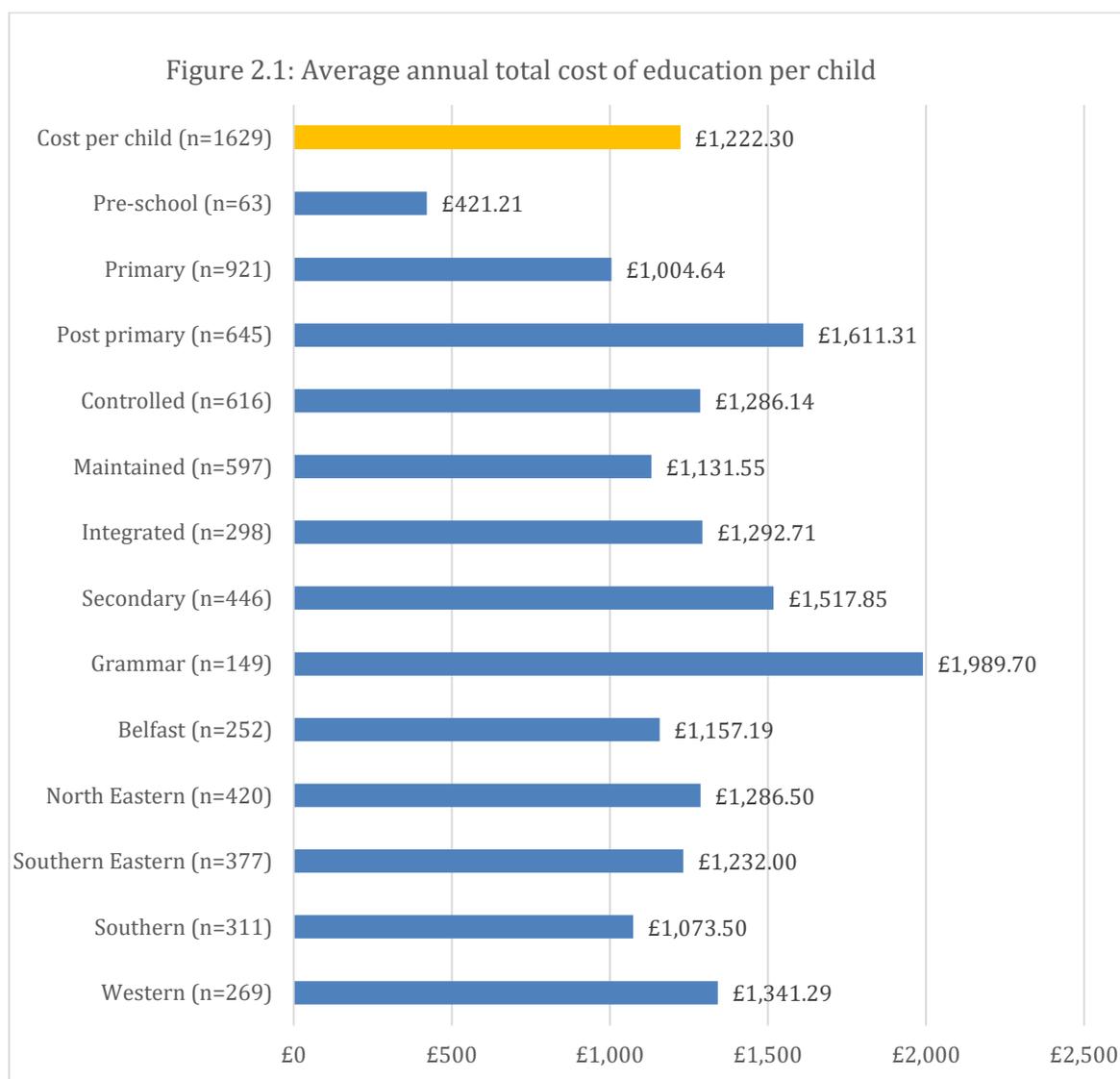
2.1 Average Annual Total Cost of Education

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 a controlled school (£1286.14) or a child attending an integrated school (£1292.71).

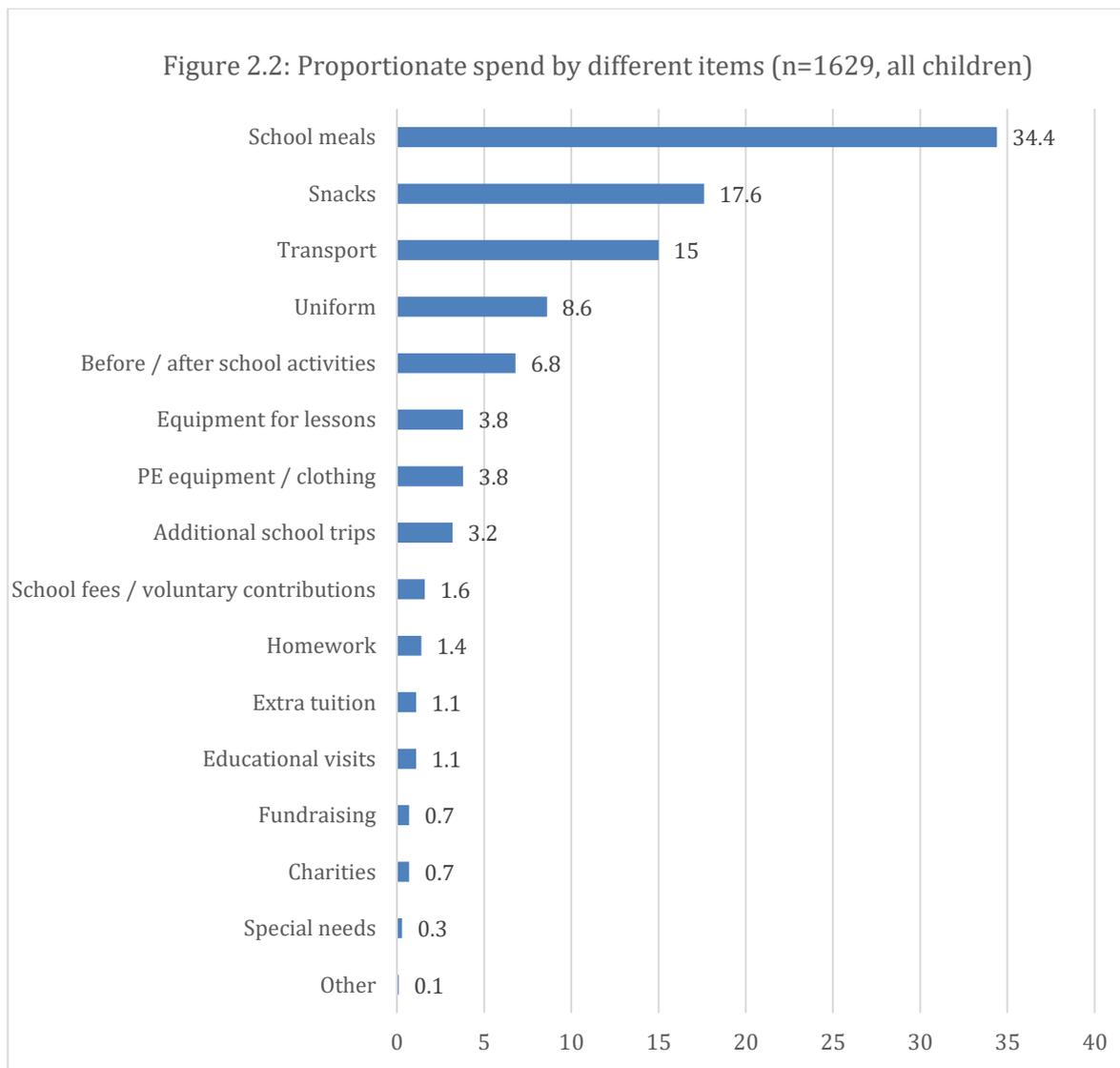
The cost for a child attending a secondary school is estimated at £1517.85 whereas for a child attending a grammar school the cost is estimated at £1989.70.

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).

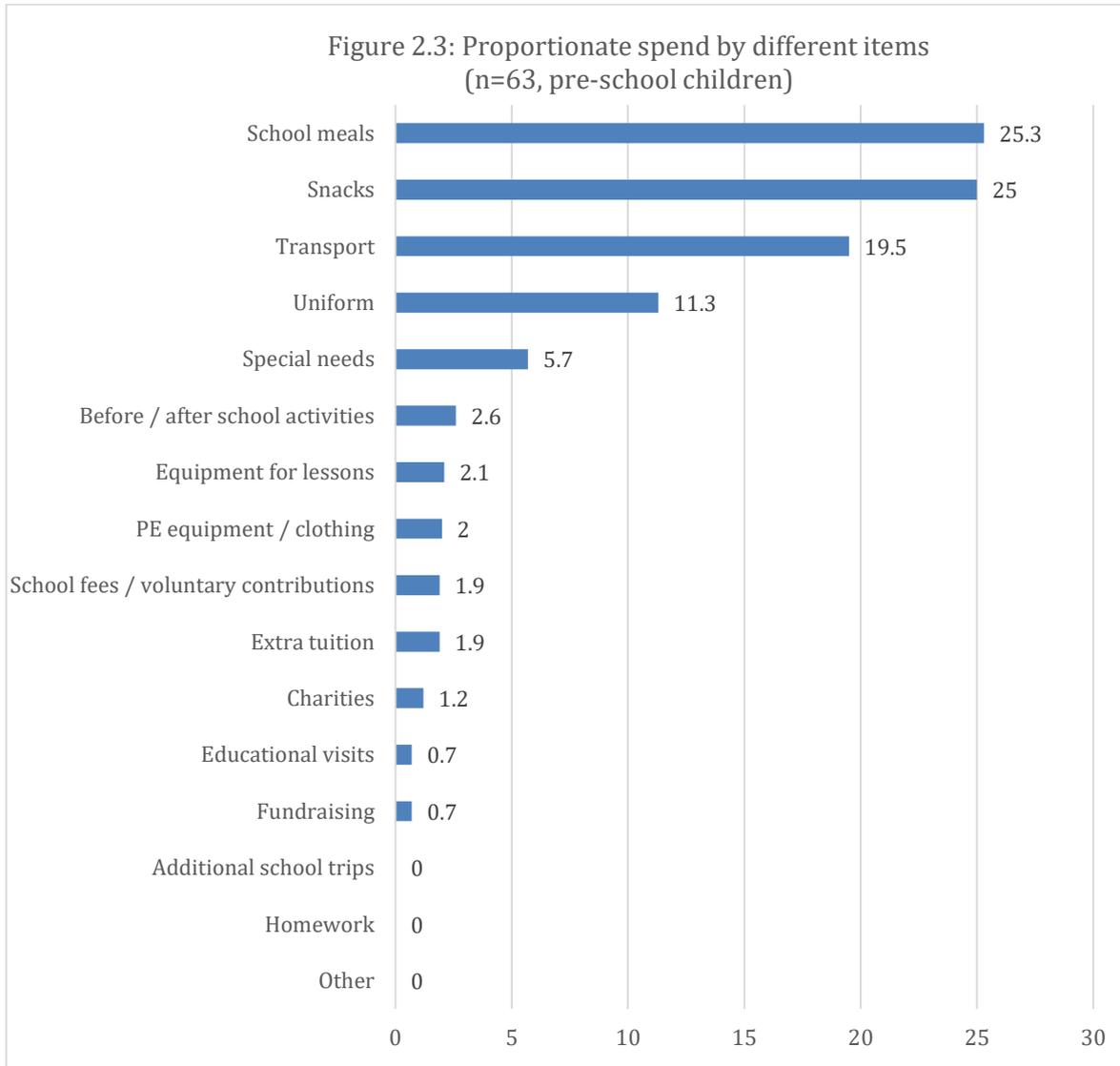
2.1.2 Annual Spend by Cost Item (All children)

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.



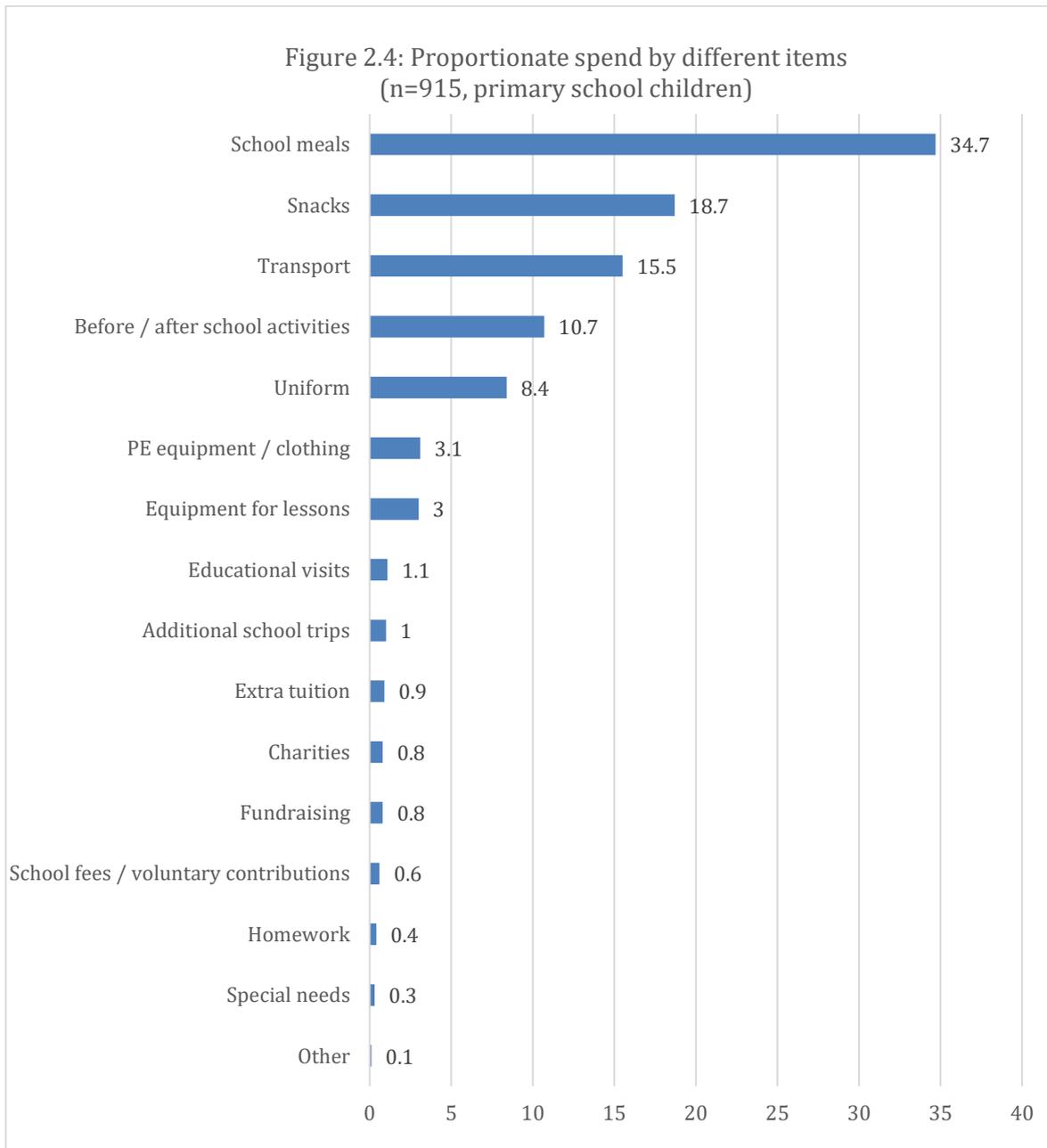
2.1.3 Annual Spend by Cost Item (Pre-school pupils)

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%.



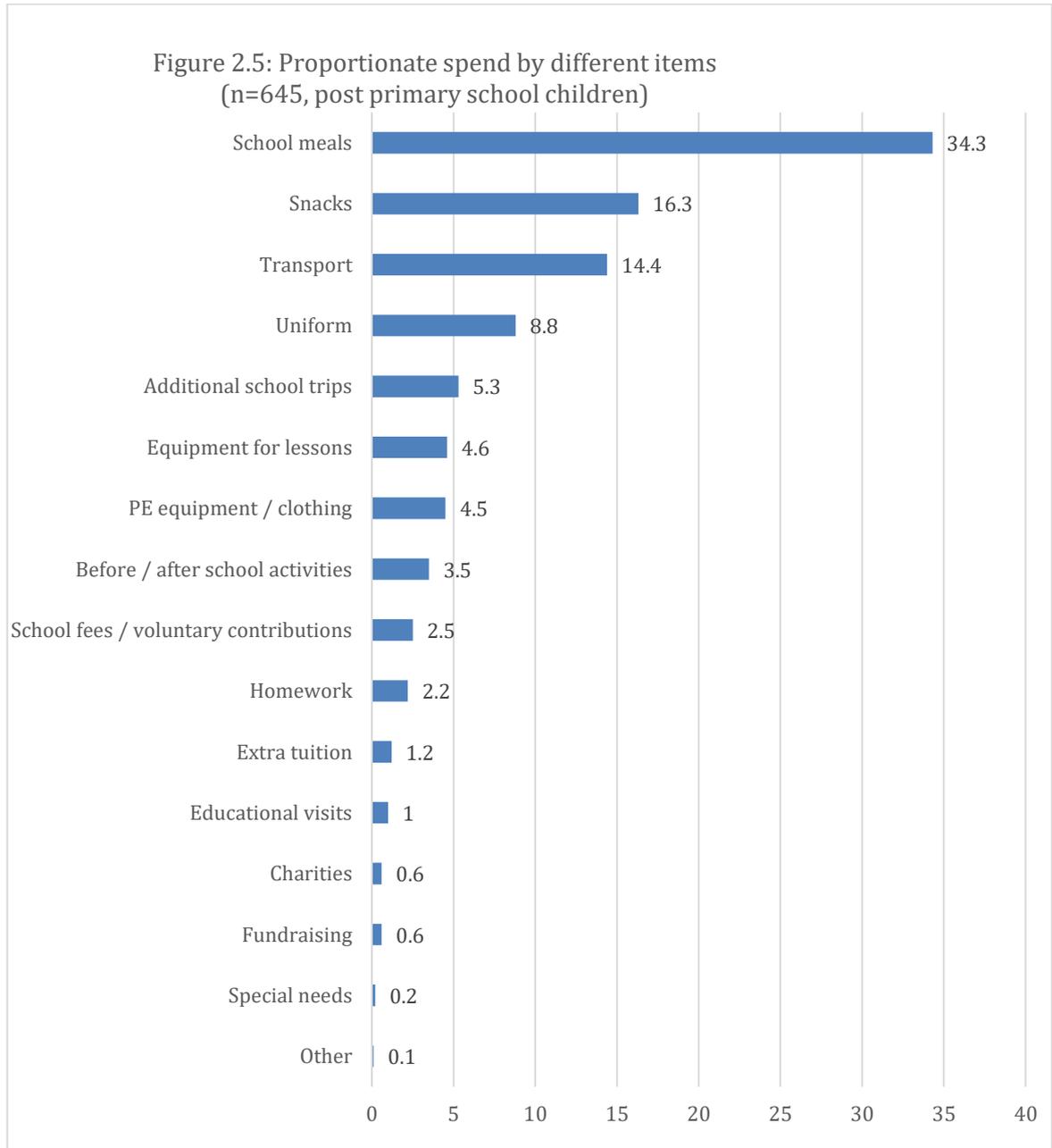
2.1.4 Annual Spend by Cost Item (Primary school pupils)

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%.



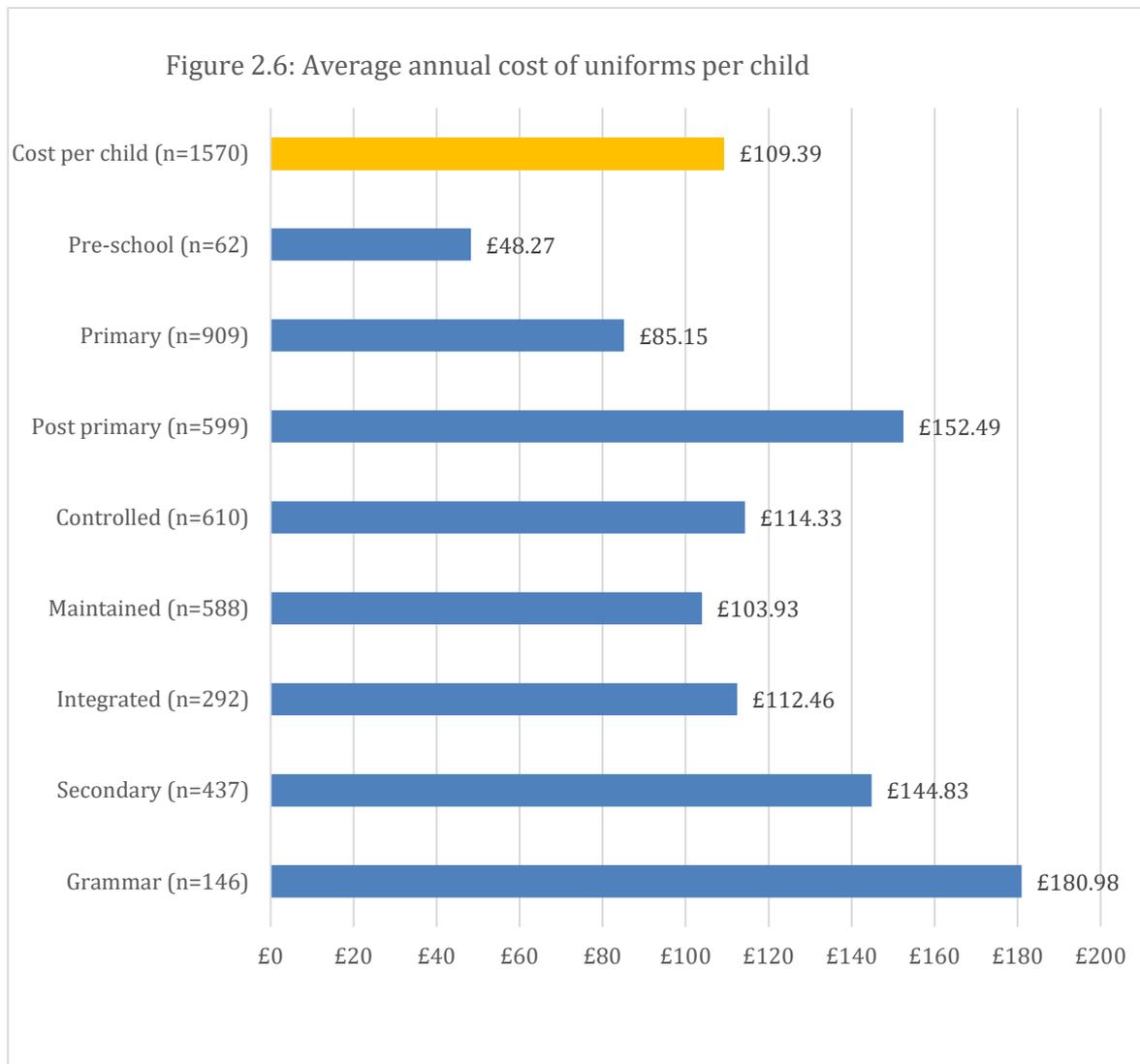
2.2 School Uniforms

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.

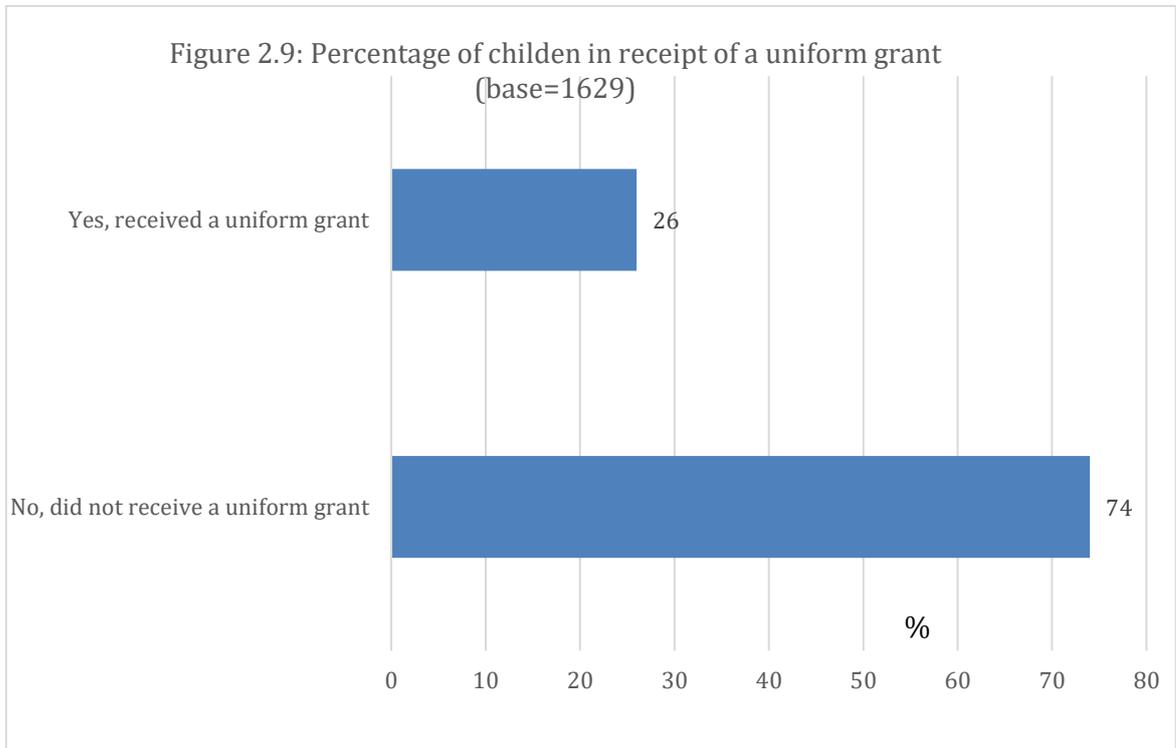


Table 2.1 shows that there were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different groups of parents and these are highlighted in Table 2.1.

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

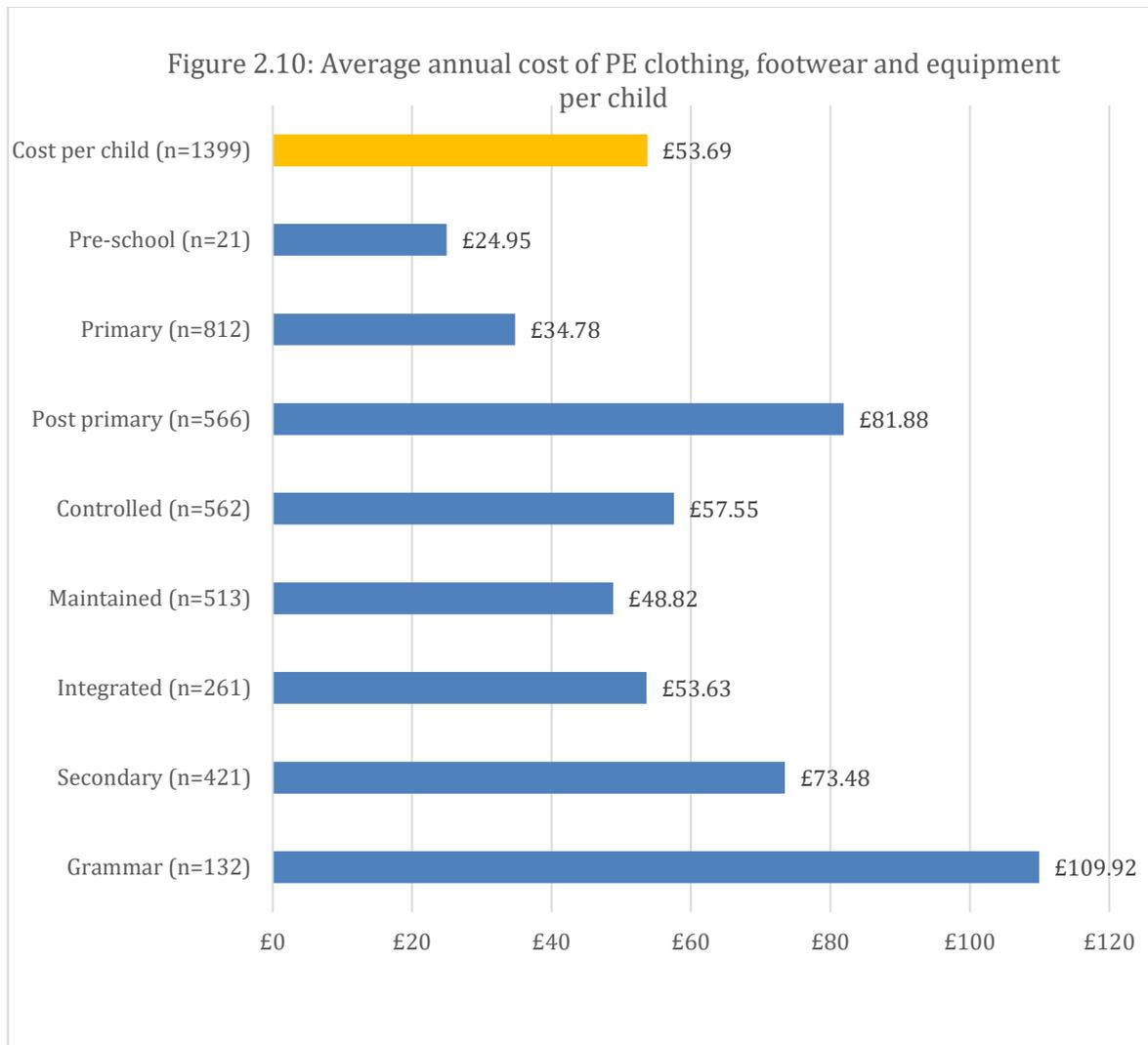
Parents in the survey were asked to say in the last year how much they had spent on PE clothing and footwear.

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.

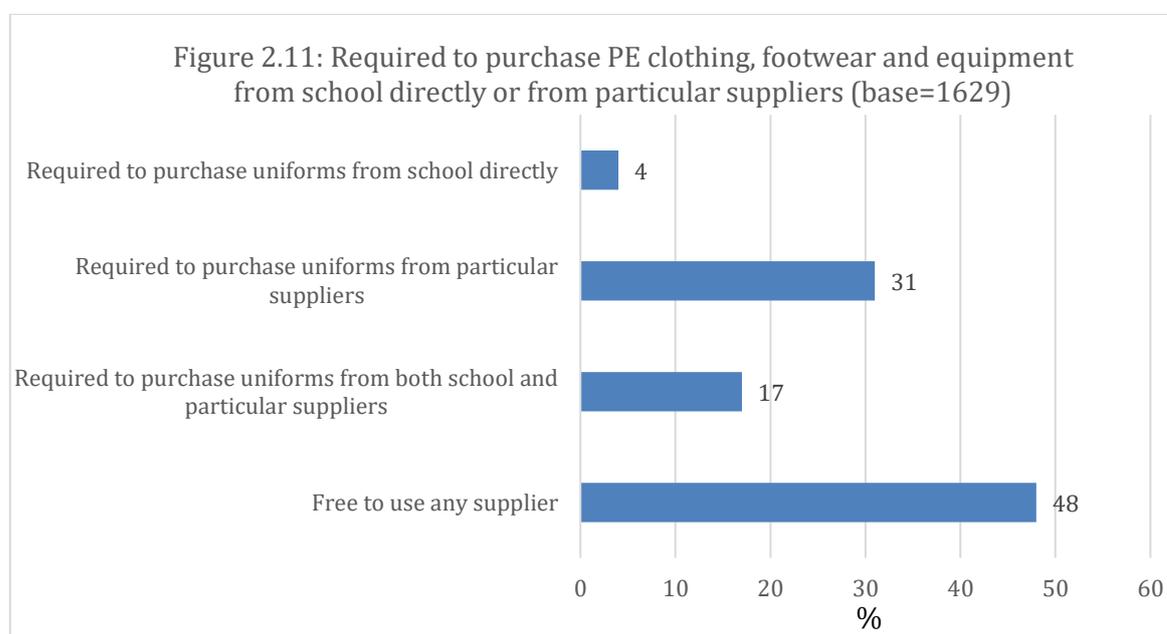
The average annual cost per child attending controlled schools was £57.55, with the average annual costs for children attending maintained schools estimated at £48.82 and £53.63 for integrated schools. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £73.48 and £109.92 respectively.



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.

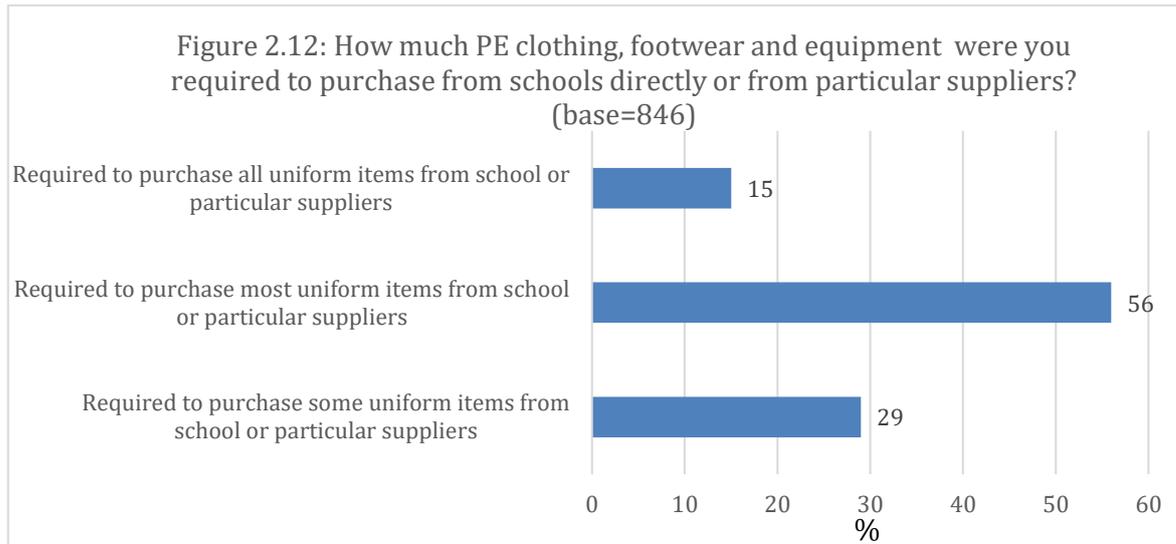
Free to use any supplier

- 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

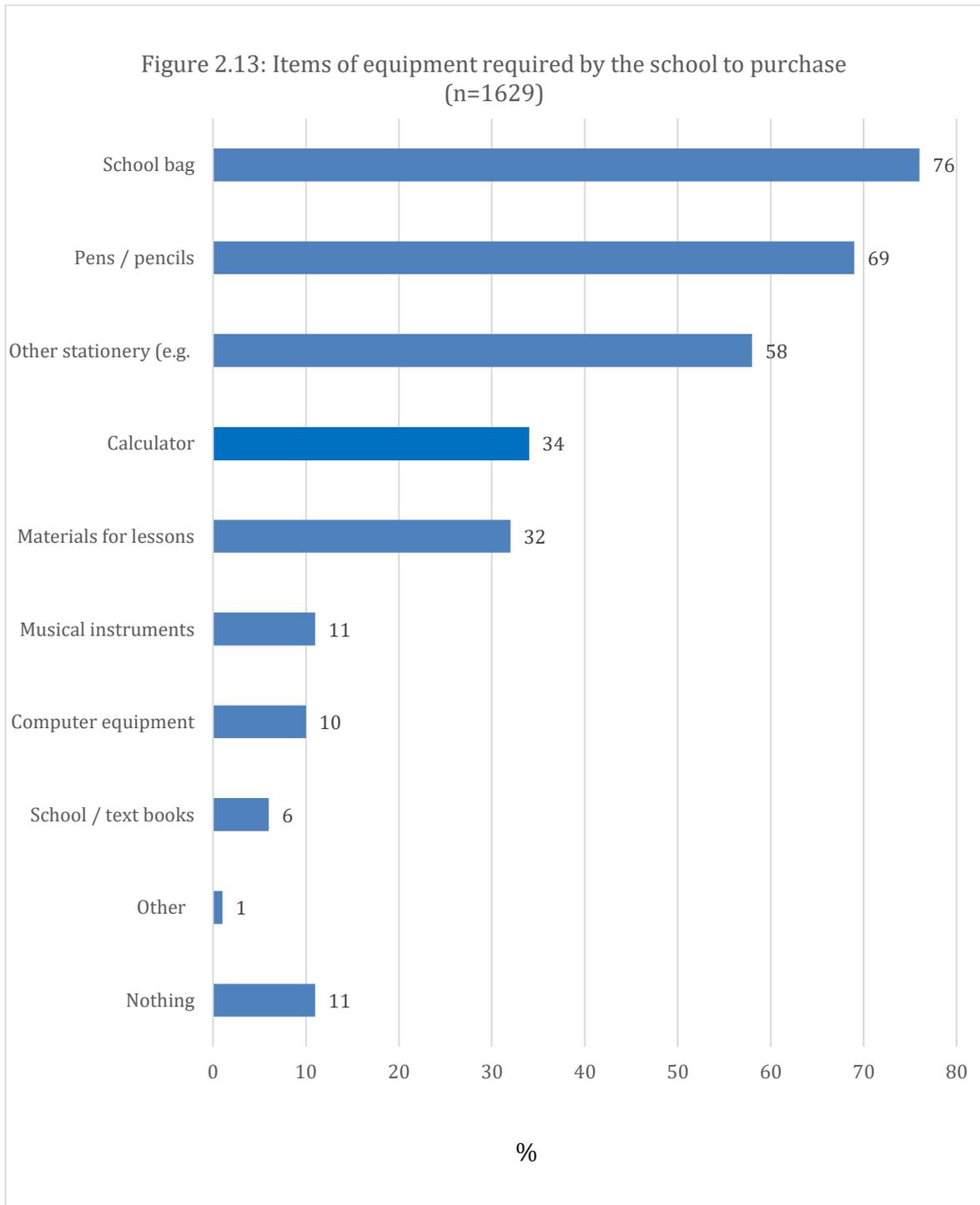
- Parents resident in the SELB (4%) were least likely to say they were required to purchase all PE clothing, footwear and equipment either from the school directly or from particular sources;
- Parents of pre-school children (33%) were more likely to say they had to purchase all PE clothing, footwear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

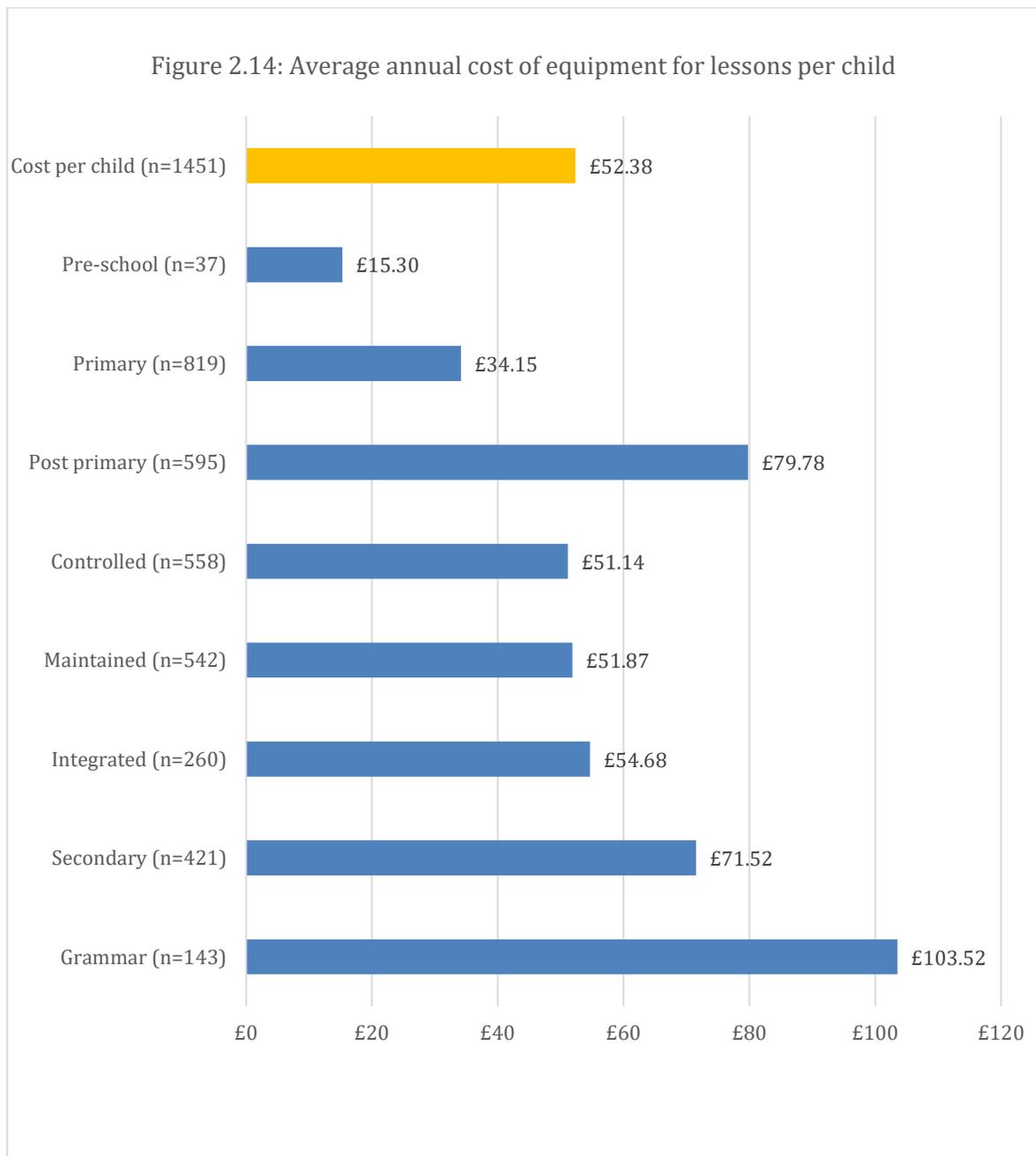


2.4.2 Average Annual Cost of Equipment for Lessons per Child

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.

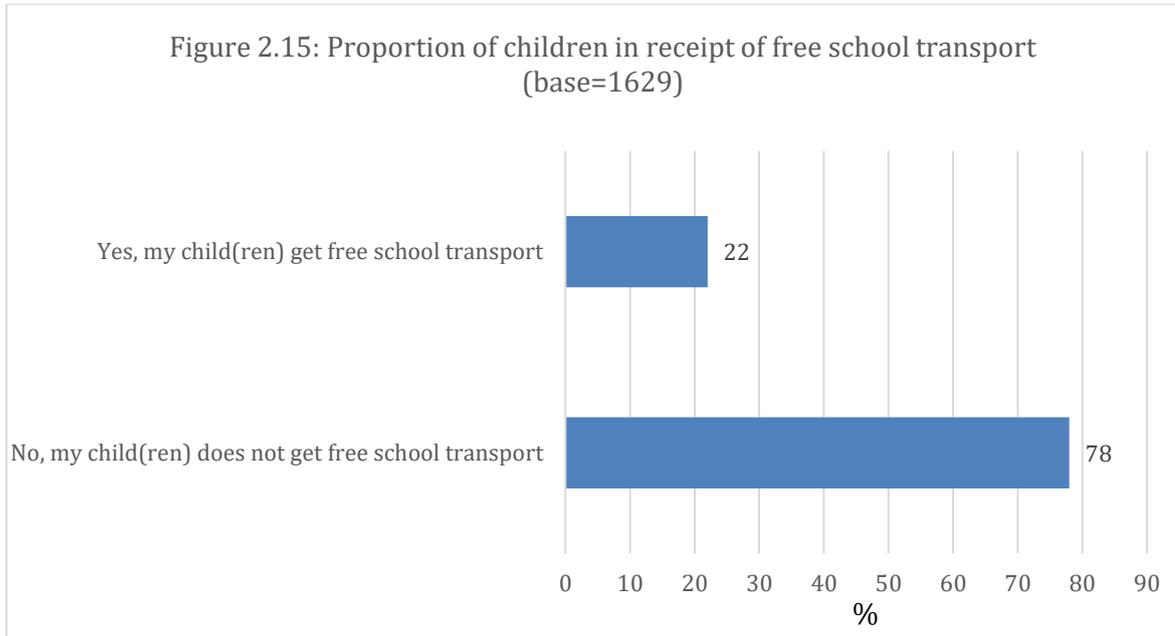


Table 2.2 identifies a number of statistically significant differences in response among different parent groups with those more likely to say their child(ren) gets free school transport including: older parents [age 45+, 32%]; those in social classes C2DE (27%); single parents (29%) etc.

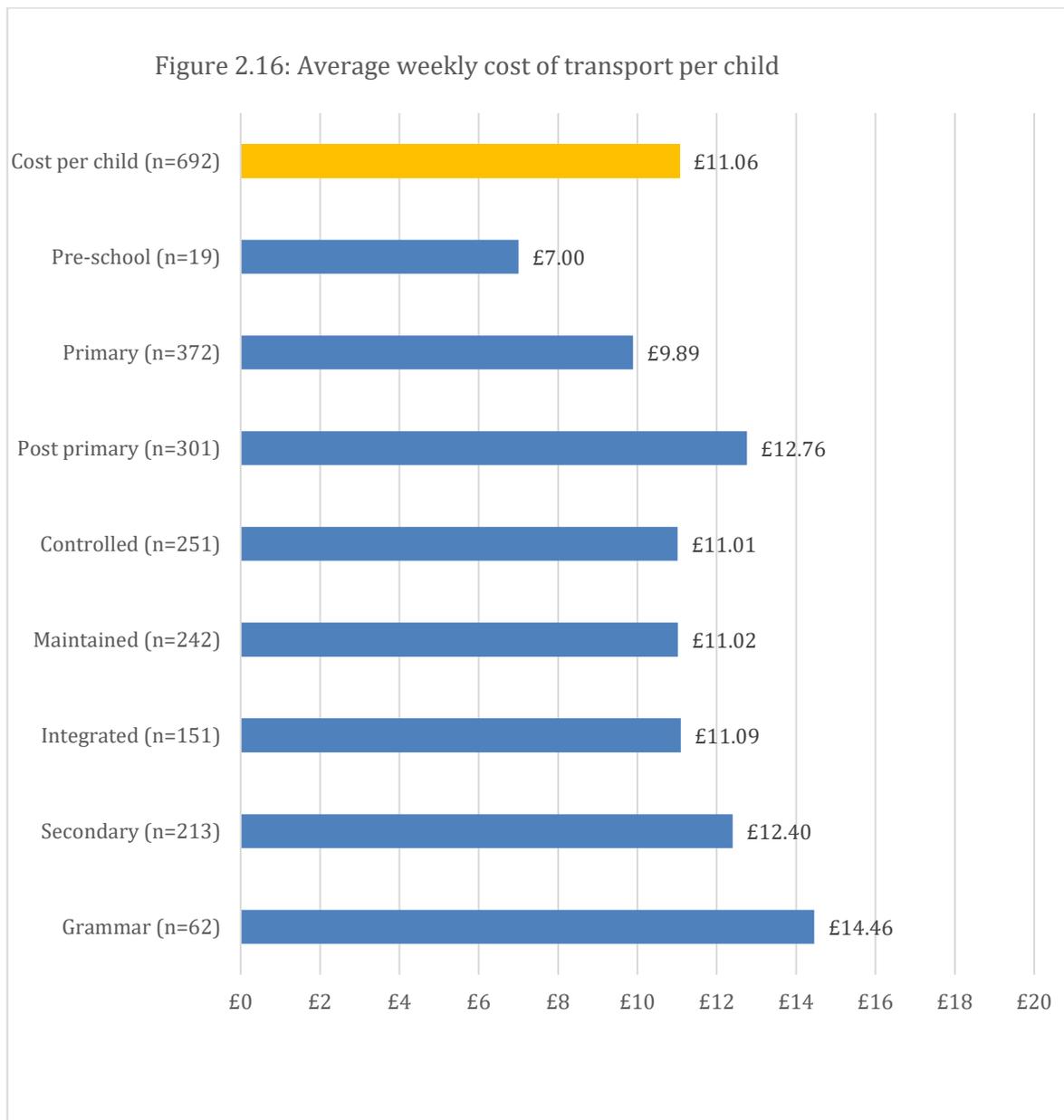
Table 2.2 Does your child(ren) gets free school transport by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Yes, gets free school transport	N
		%	
All parents		24	1006
Age*	16-34	16	257
	35 to 44	20	356
	45+	32	393
Marital Status*	Single	22	176
	Married / cohabiting	22	737
	Separated / widowed / divorced	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.



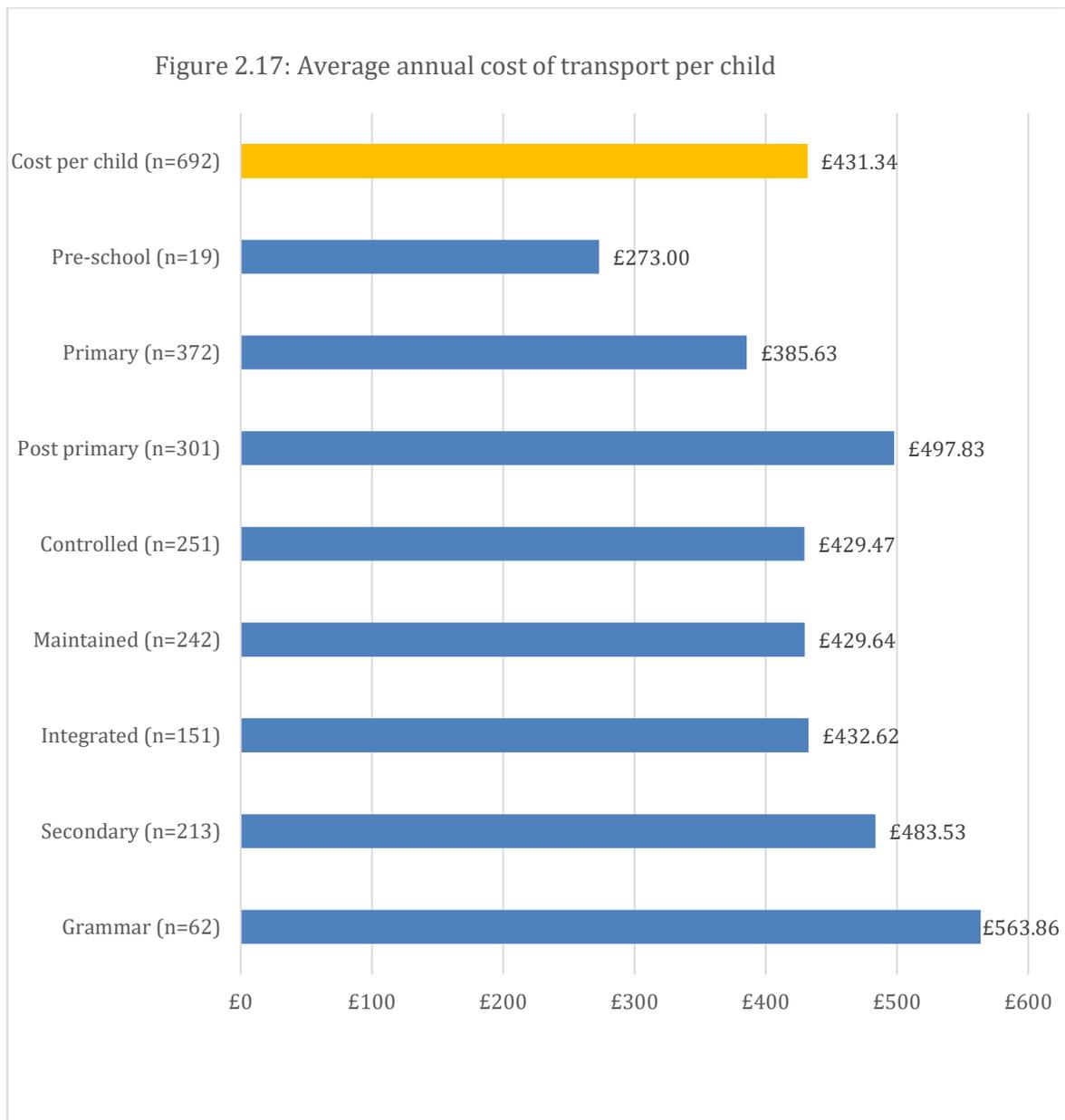
On average households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £16.32 a week on transport (ranging from £1 to £150).

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.

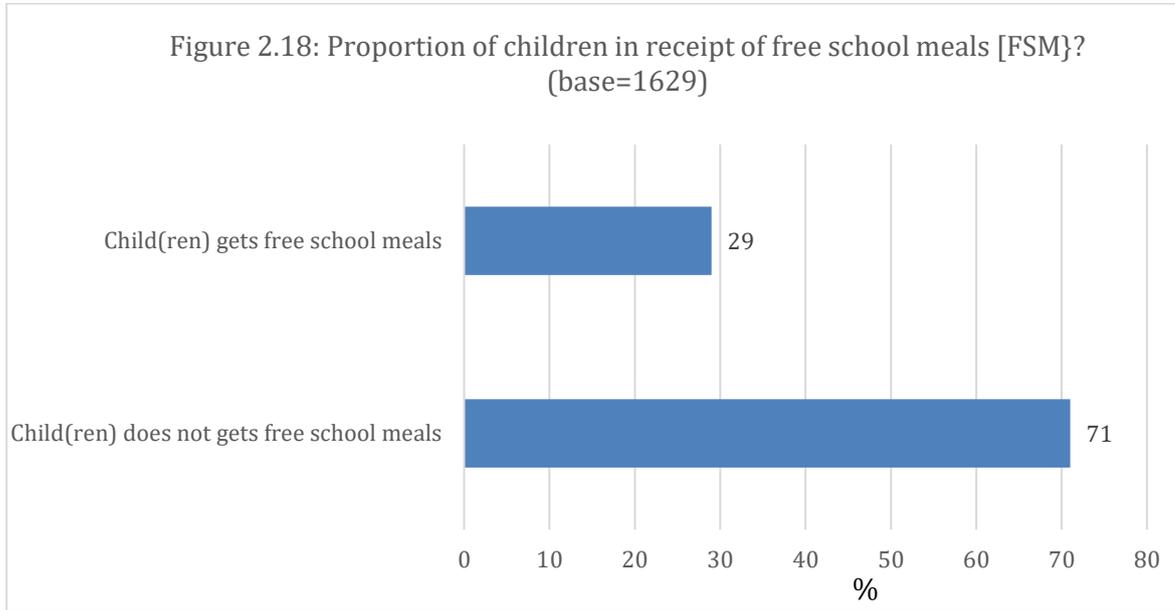


On average households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £636.43 annually on transport.

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.



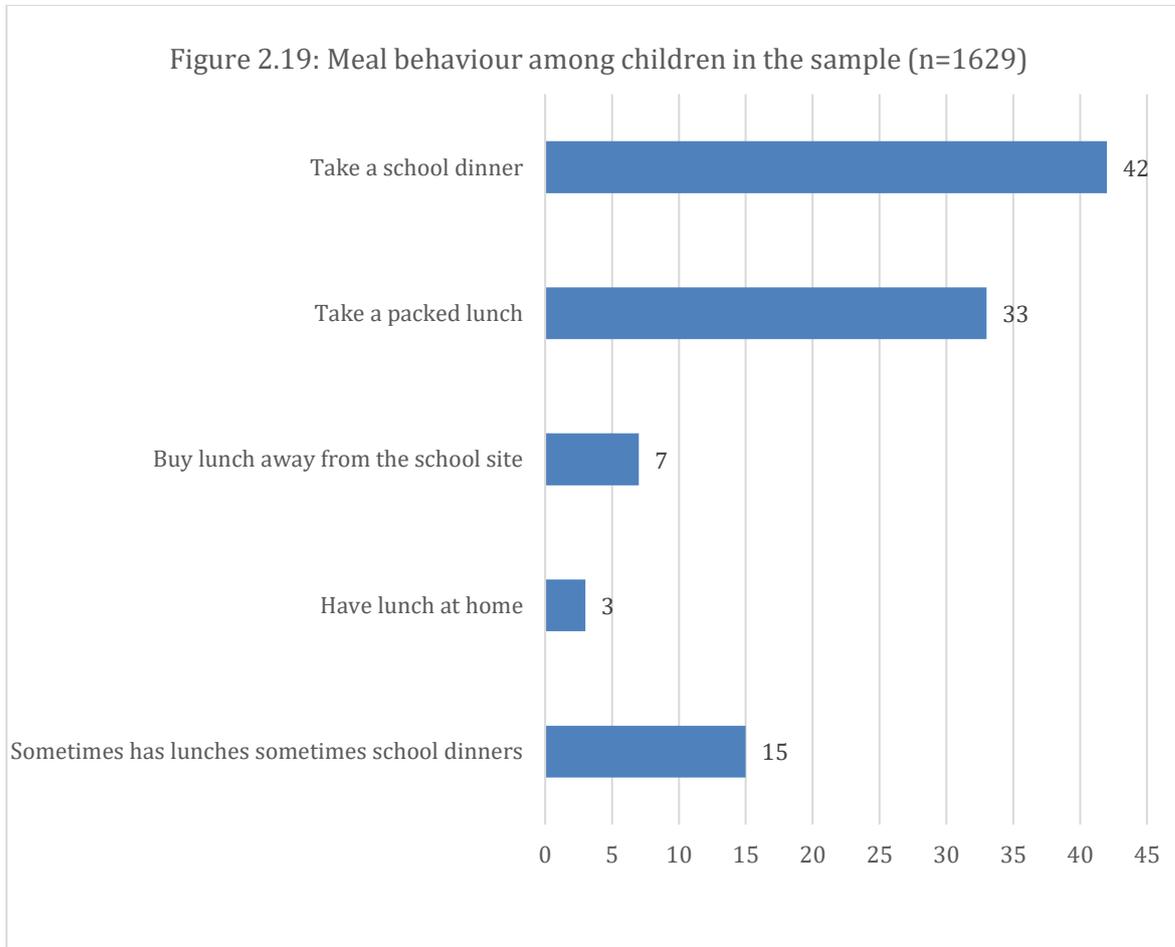
There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.3.

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.

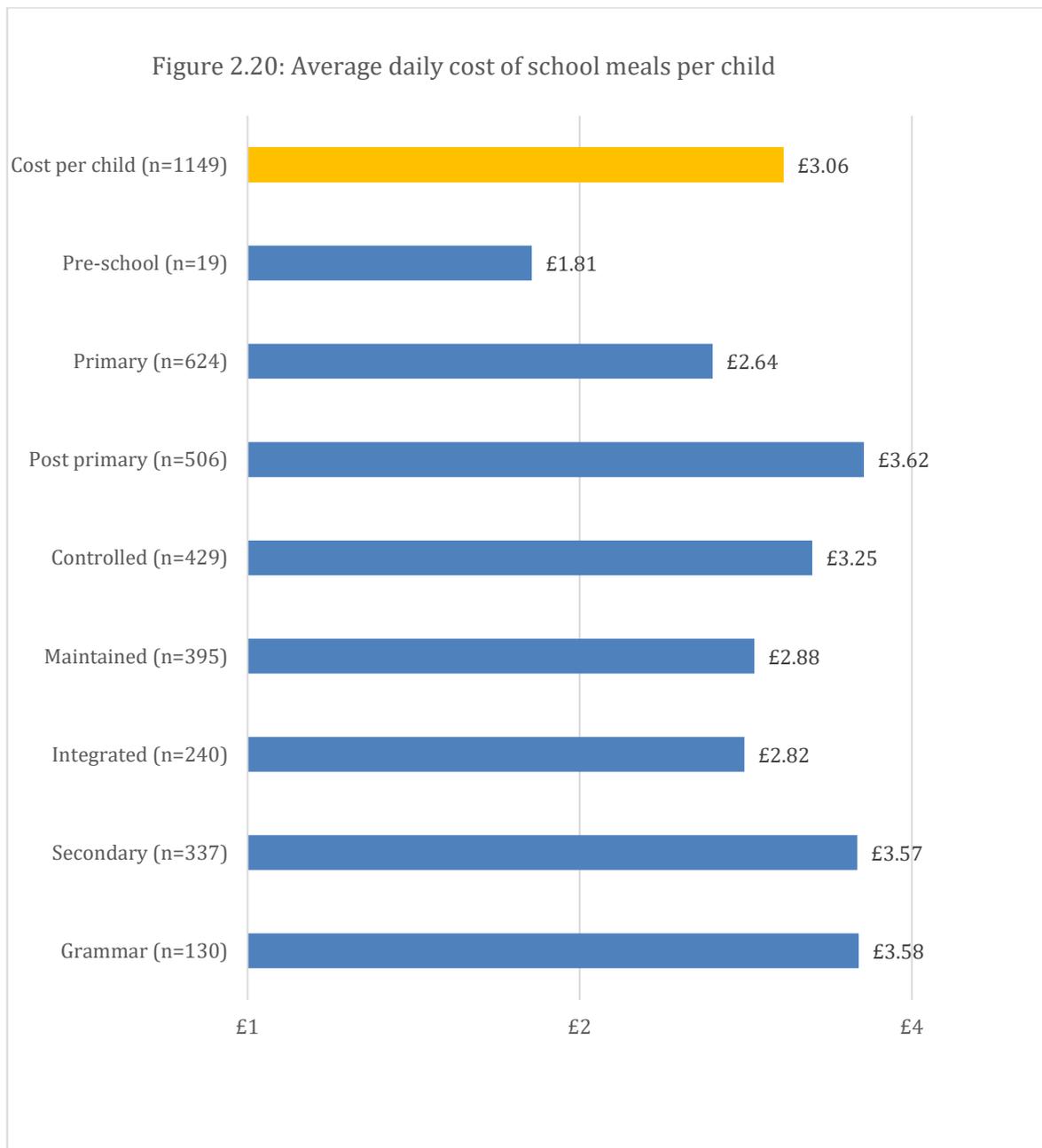
Table 2.4 Child(ren) normally take a school dinner by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Child(ren) take a school dinner	N
		%	
All parents		41	1006
Sex*	Male	37	425
	Female	44	581
Marital Status*	Single	49	176
	Married / cohabiting	38	737
	Separated / widowed / divorced	50	93
Social Class *	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.



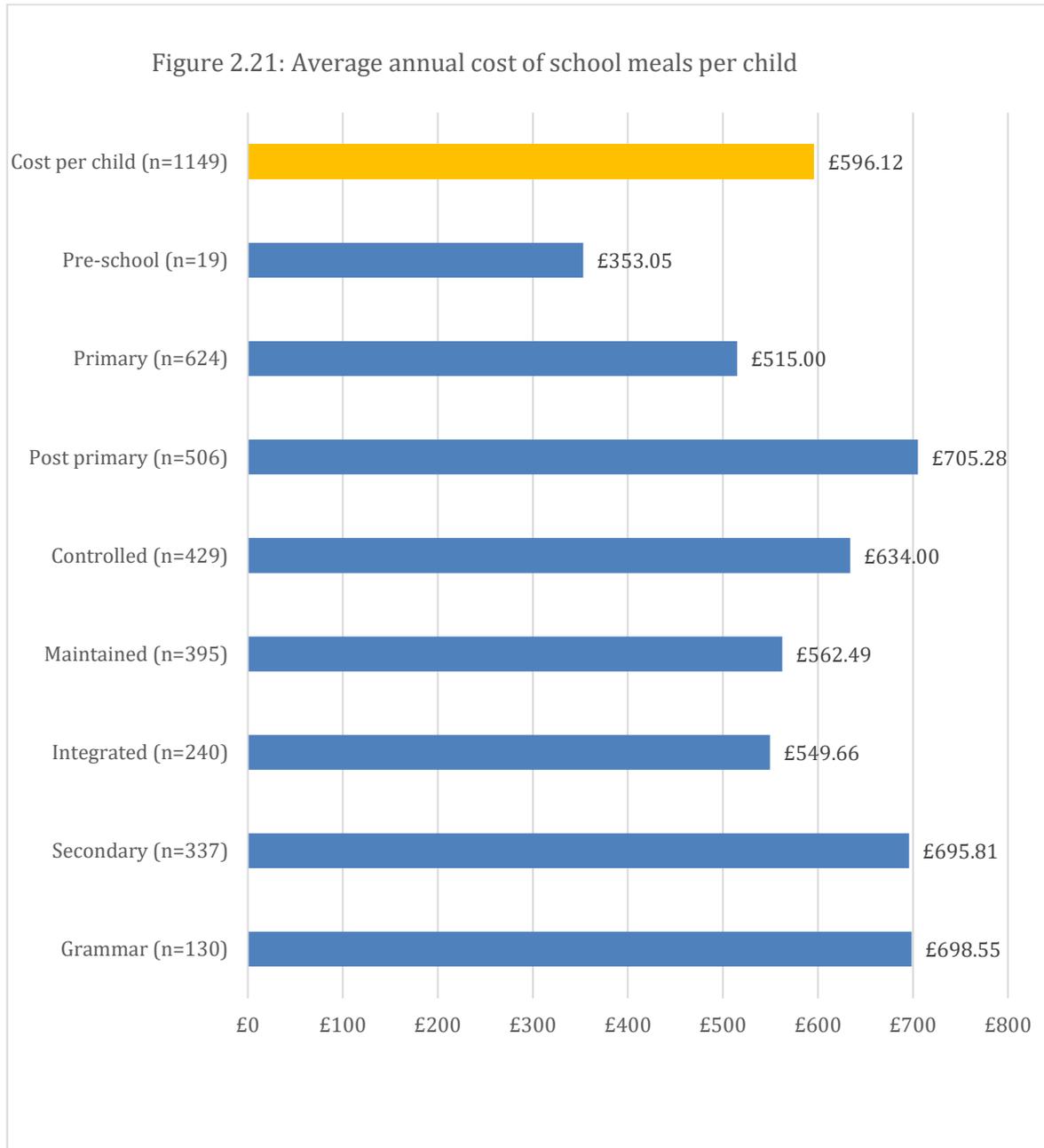
Households in Northern Ireland were found to spend an average of £4.72 per day on school meals (ranging from £1 to £20).

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.



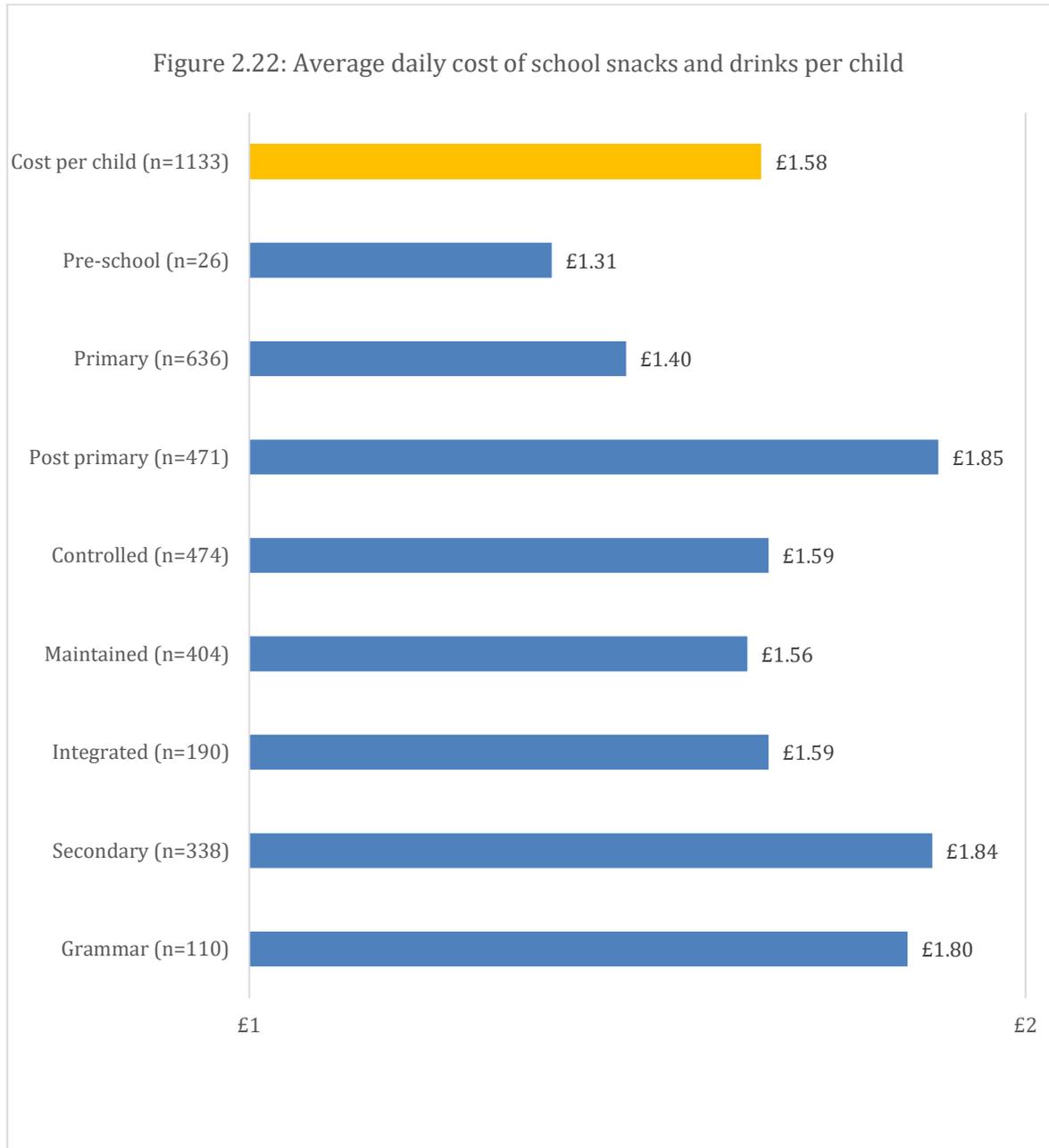
Households in Northern Ireland were found to spend an average of £920.61 annually on school meals.

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.



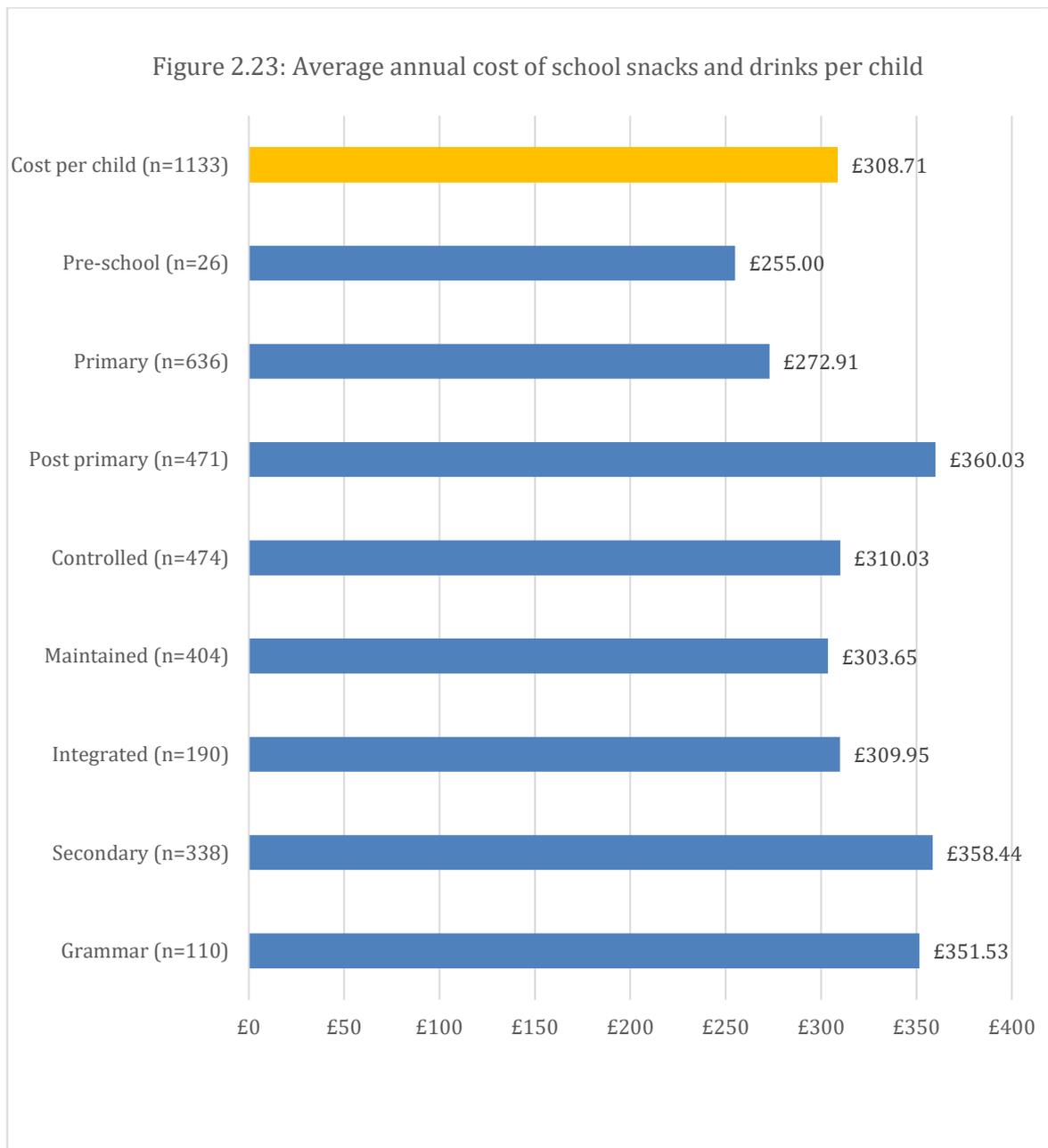
Households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £2.43 on snacks and drinks each day (ranging from £1 to £15).

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.



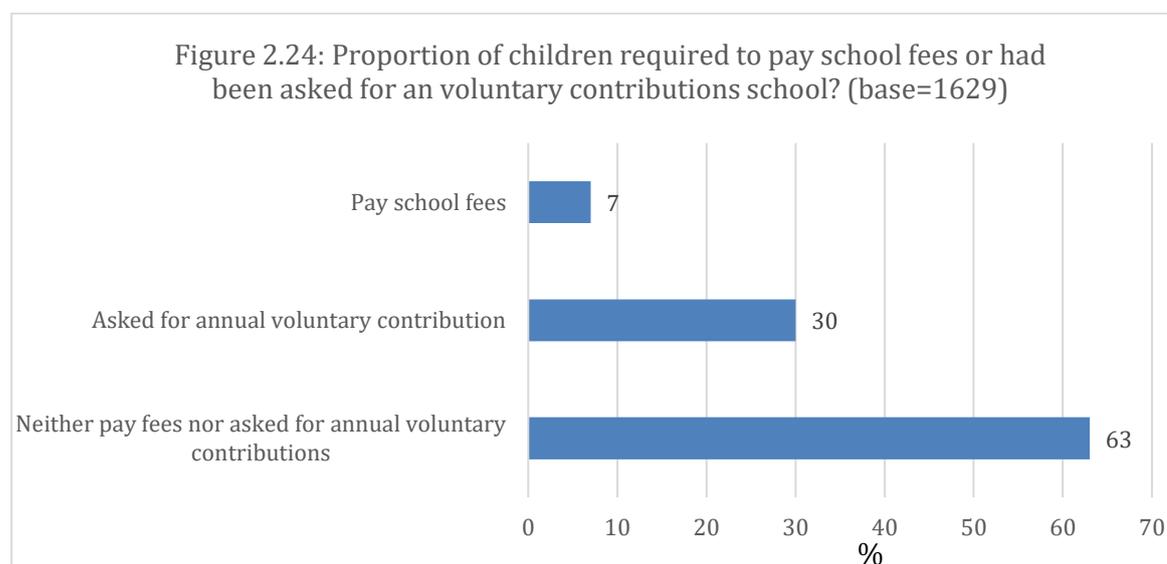
Households in Northern Ireland spent an average of £474.58 on snacks and drinks each year.

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.

		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

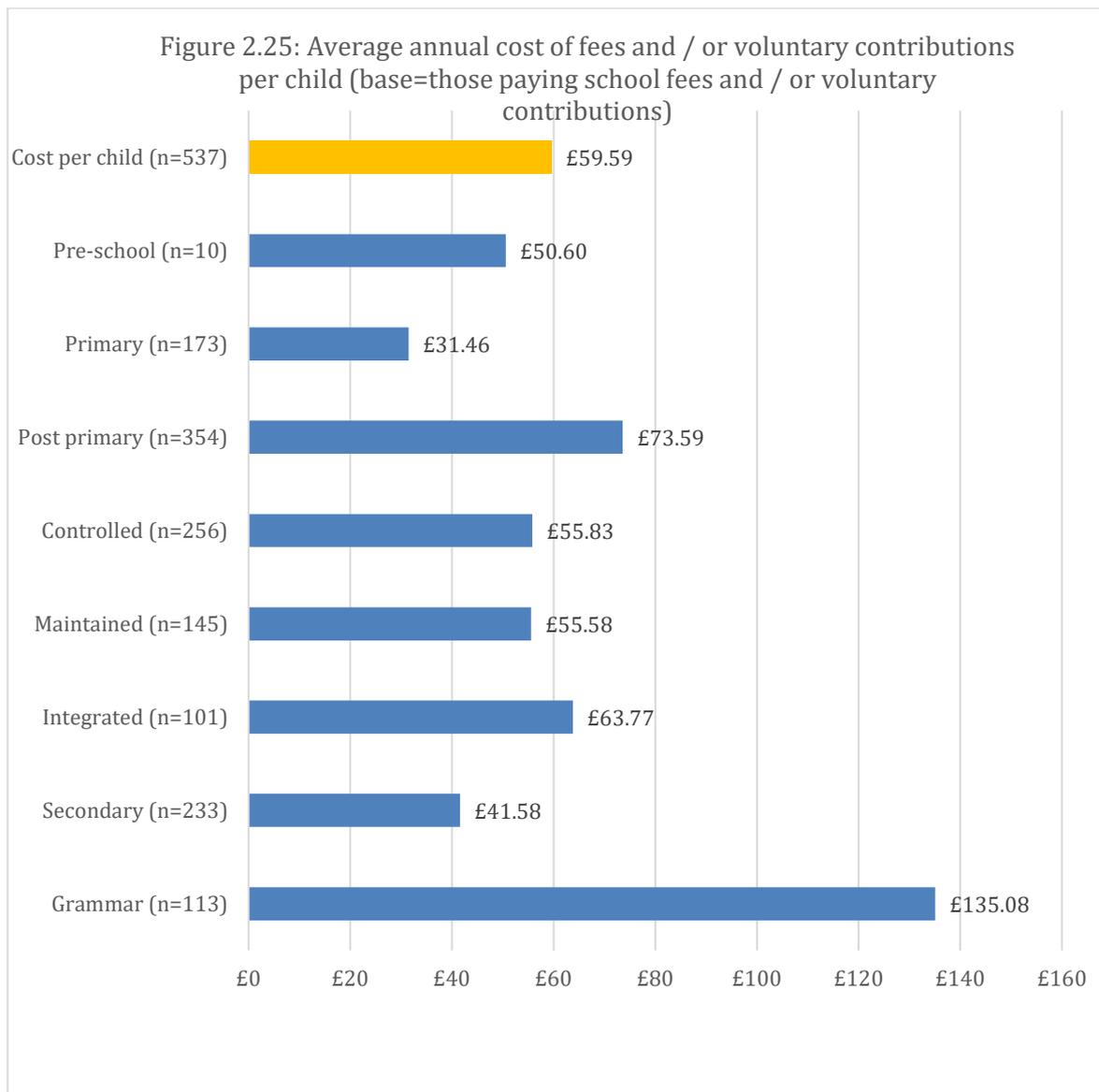
*Statistically significant

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.

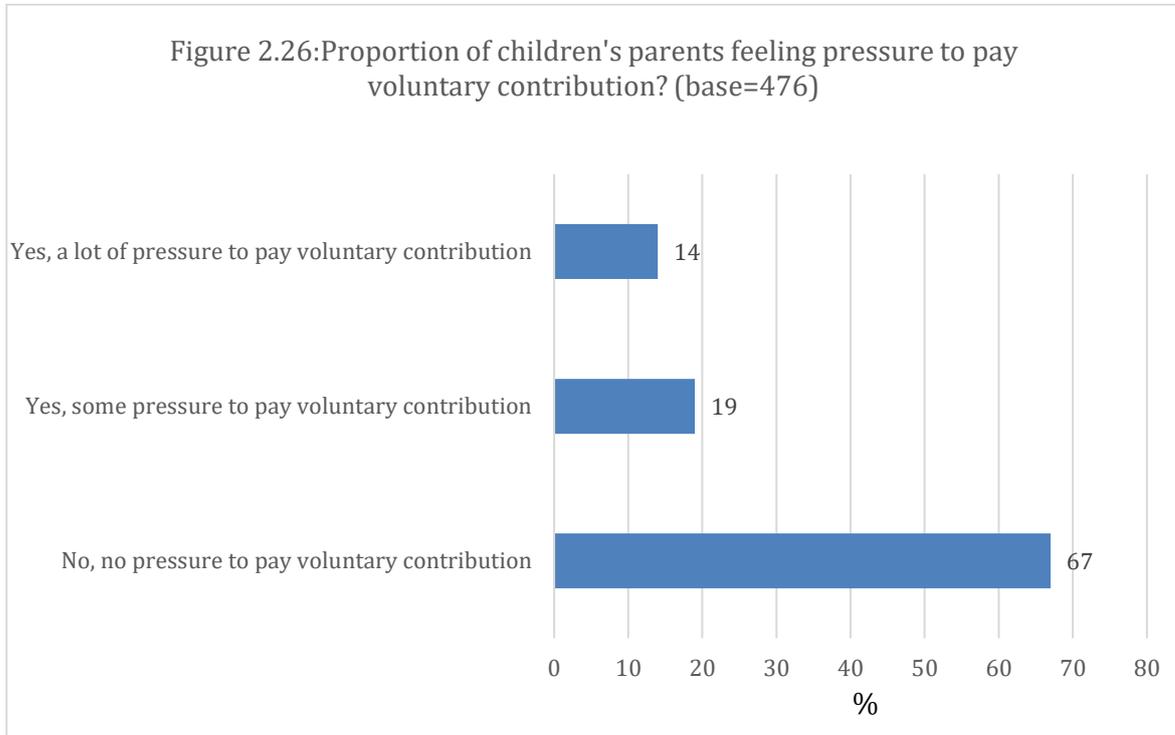


Among households who pay school fees and/ or make an annual voluntary contribution to their child's school, the average cost is estimated at £73.56 (ranging from £5 to £600).

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%).

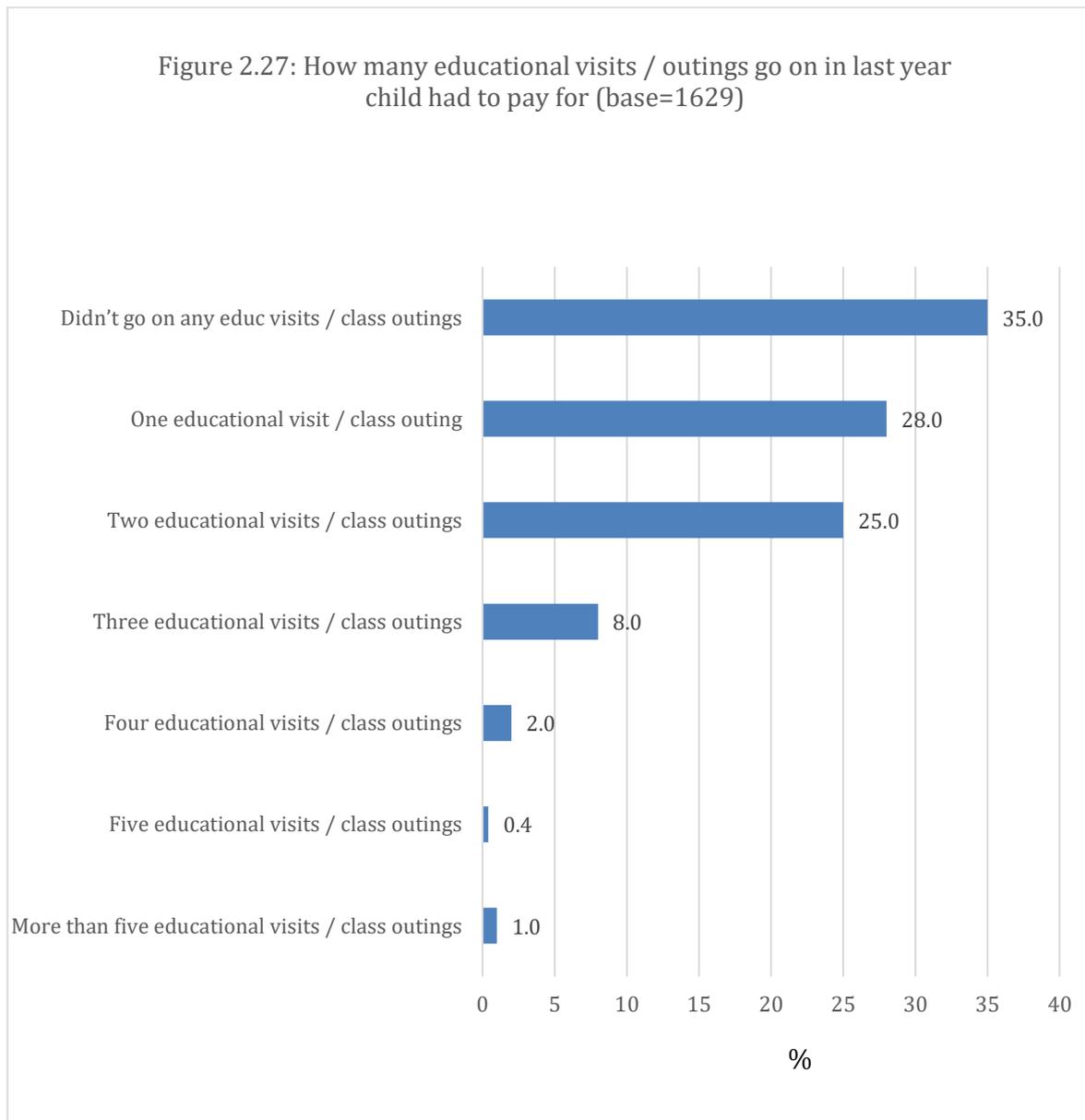
Table 2.7: Reasons parents stated for feeling under pressure to pay voluntary contributions (base =100: multiple response i.e. parents may have provided more than one response)		
	%	n
School sends out letters / reminders	26	26
Feel it is compulsory, it is expected	15	15
Struggle to pay, can't pay it	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.

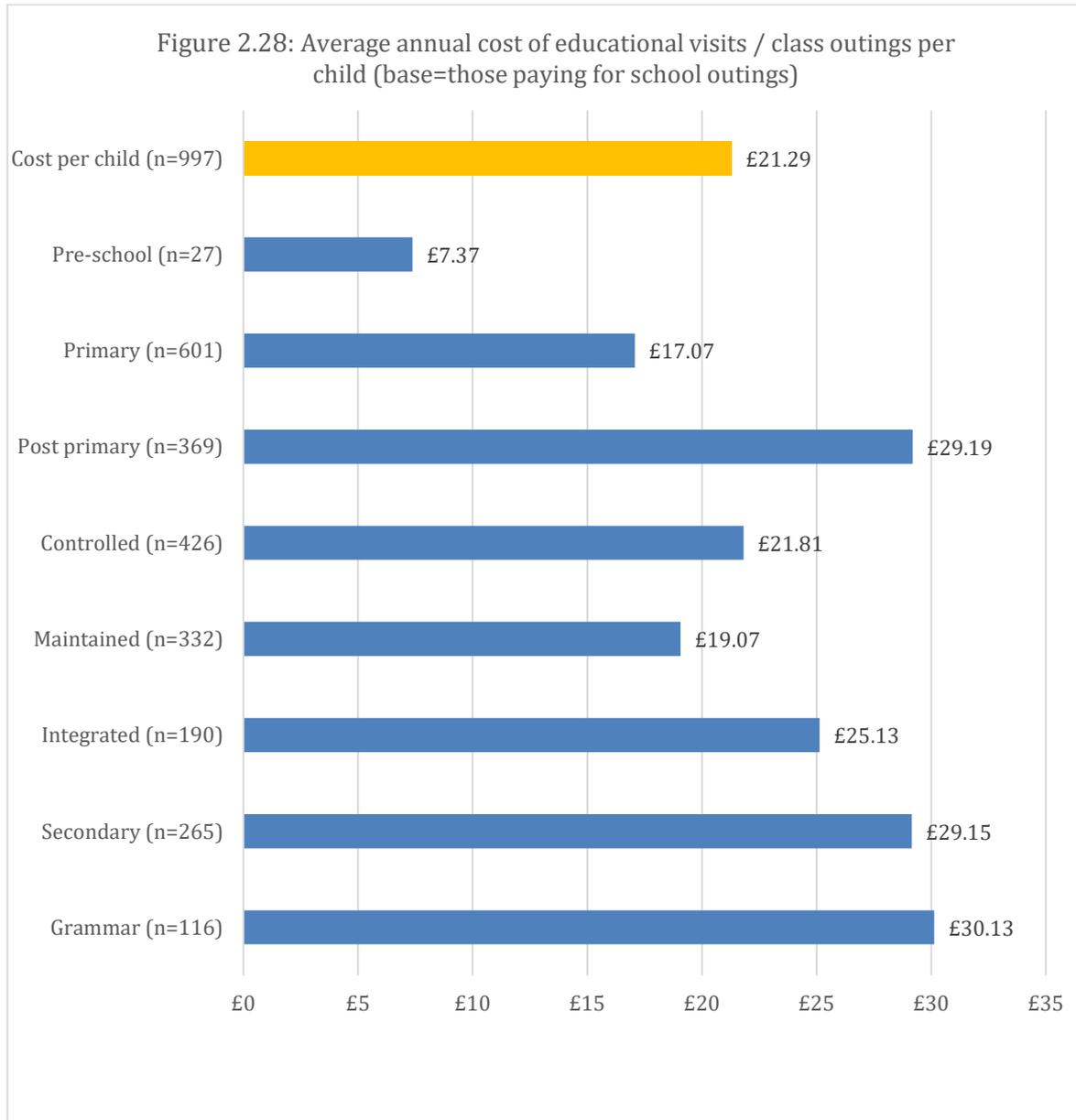
Table 2.8 Over the past year, how many outings did you have to pay for which your child went on with their whole class by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Pay for school outings in last year	N
		%	
All parents		70	1006
School type*	Pre-school children	62	60
	Primary school children	75	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.

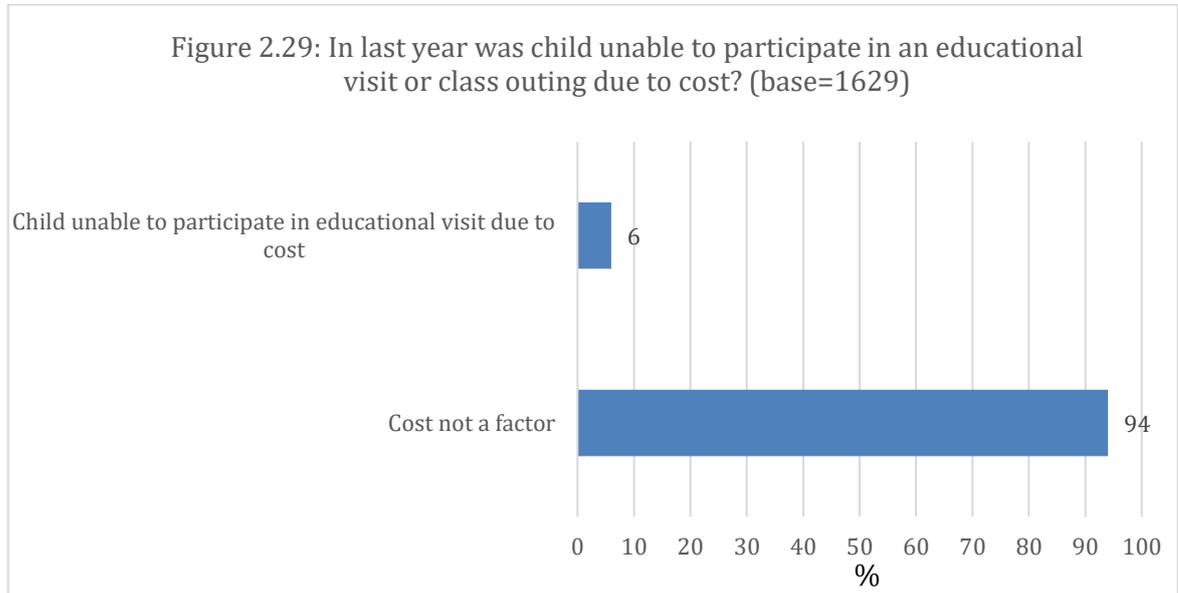
The average annual cost of educational visits / class outings for a child attending a controlled school was £21.81, compared with £19.07 for maintained school and £25.13 for an integrated school. The figures for secondary and grammar schools were £29.15 and £30.13 respectively.



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.

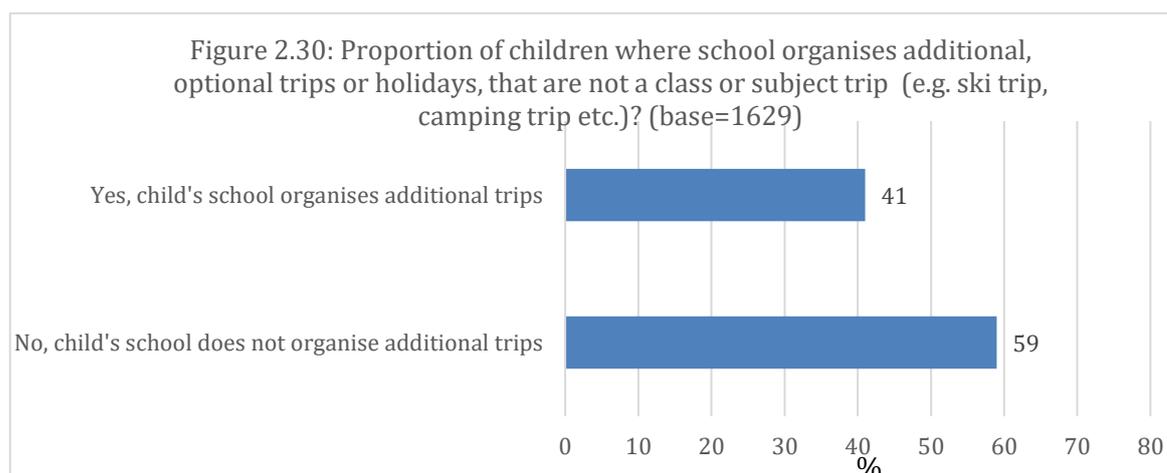
Table 2.9 Unable to let child(ren) participate in educational visits / outings due to cost by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Unable to let child(ren) participate in educational visits / outings due to cost	N
		%	
All parents		6	1006
Limiting long-term illness*	Yes	22	73
	No	5	933
Economic 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.



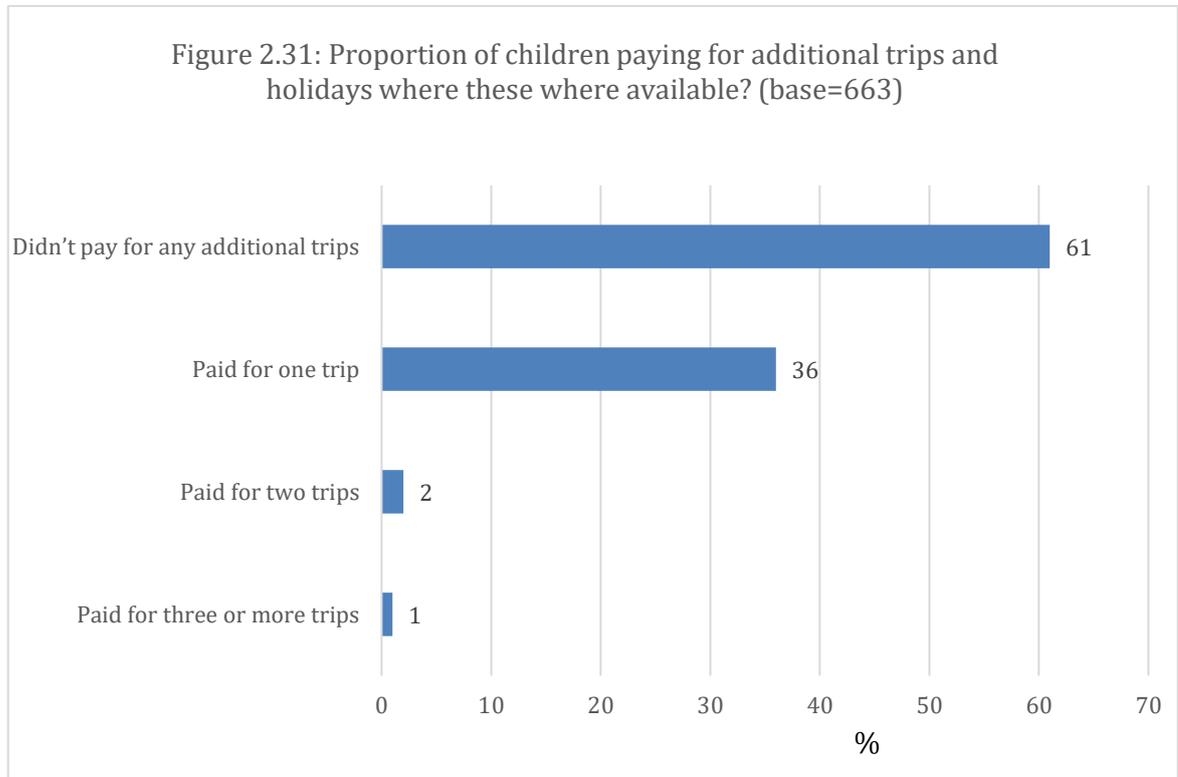
There were a number of statistically significant differences in response by different parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.10.

		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].

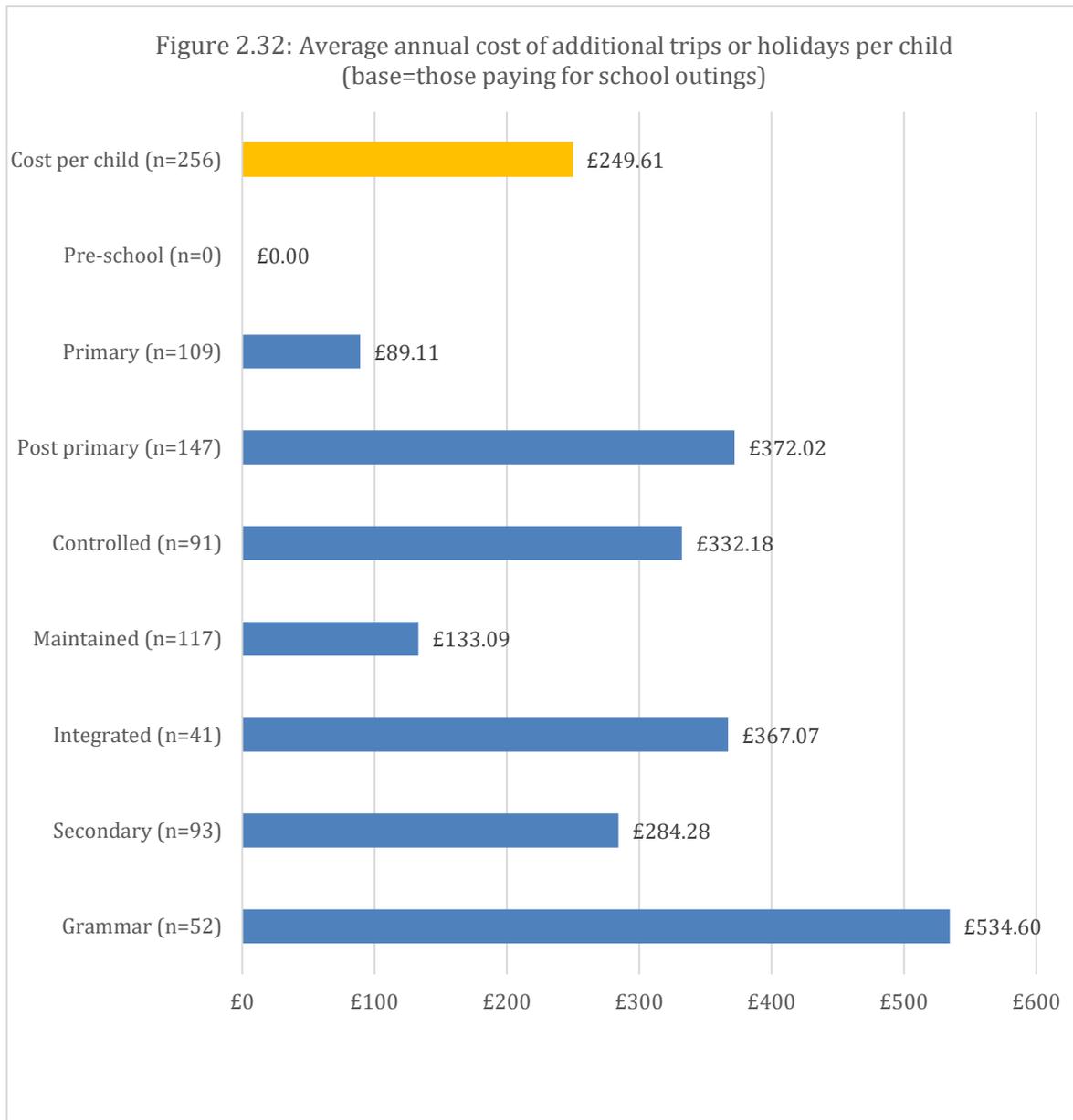
Table 2.11 Over the past year, how many additional trips or holidays did you pay for your child by socio-demographic characteristics [N=436]			
		Pay for school outings in last year	N
		%	
All parents		40	463
School type	Pre-school children	43	7
	Primary school children	44	223
	Post primary school children	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.

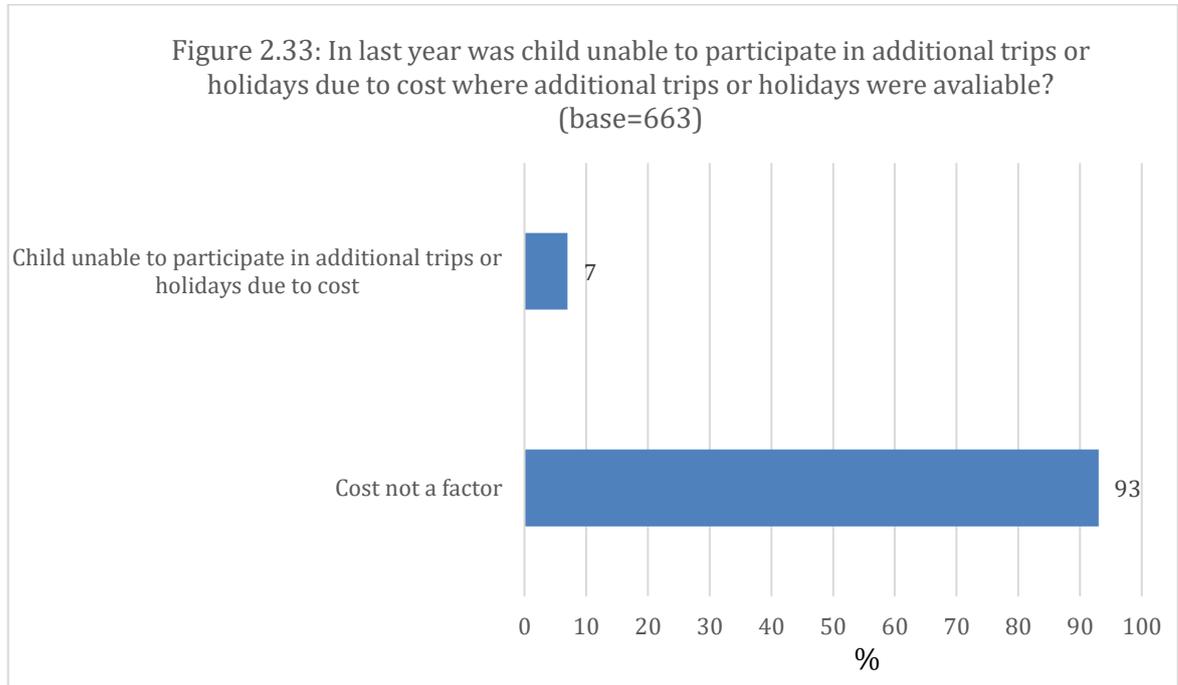


Table 2.12 highlights a number of statistically significant differences in response to this question between different parent groups. Please note that the difference by school management type is not statistically significant.

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

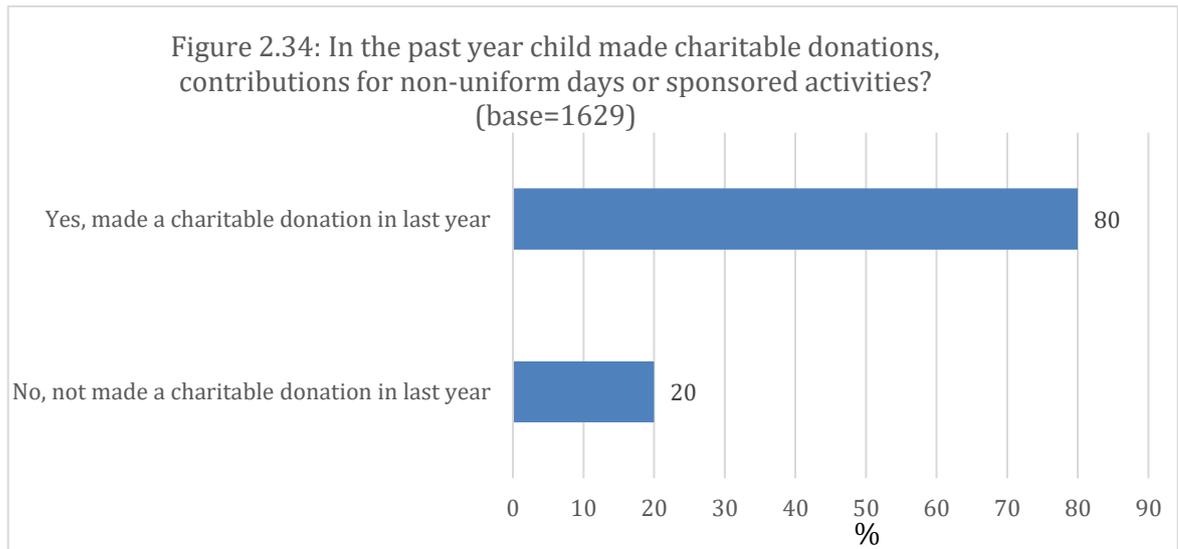
*Statistically significant

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).

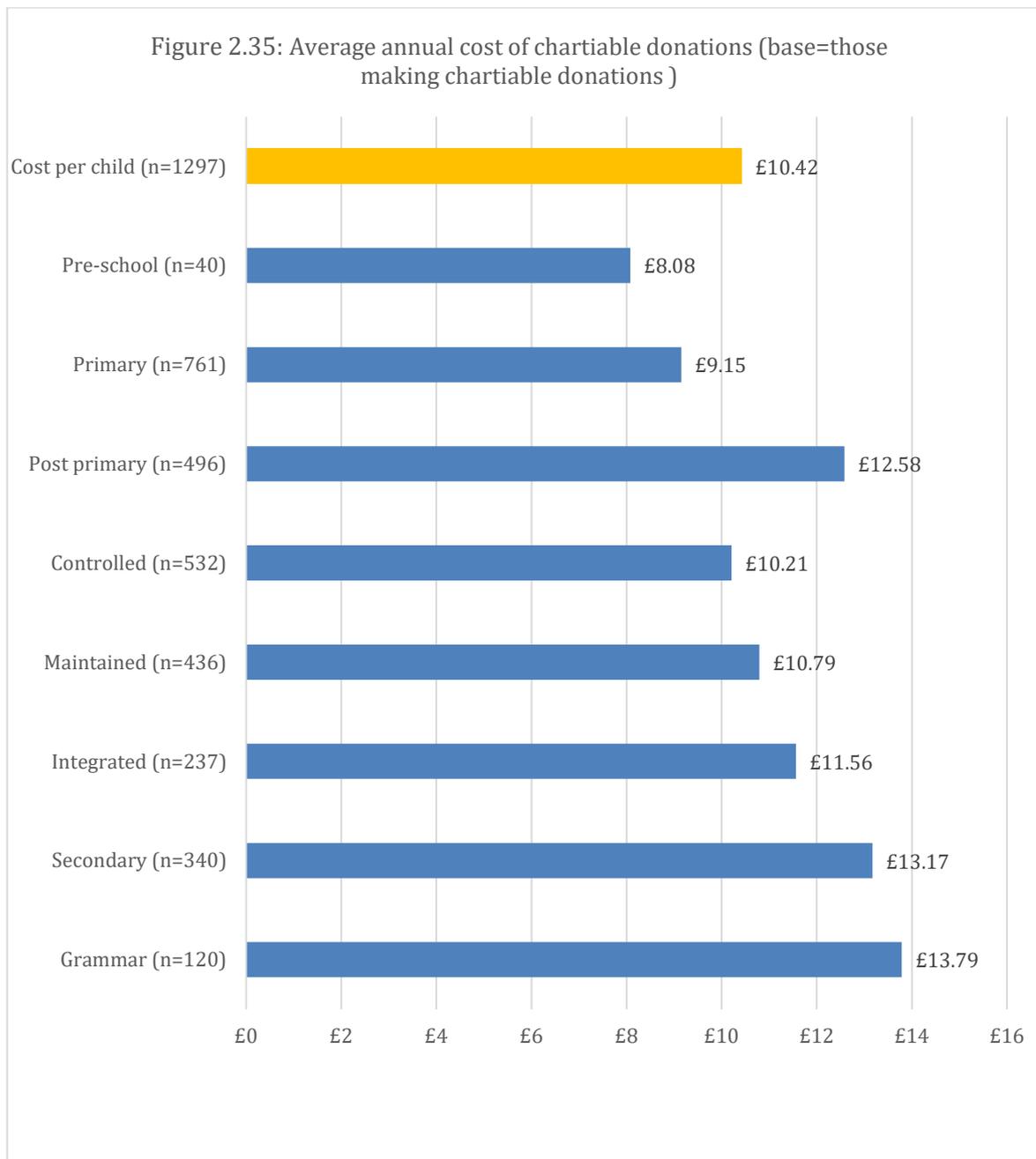
Table 2.13 In the past year have you made charitable donations, contributions for non-uniform days or sponsored activities (e.g. fancy-dress days for a particular cause etc. by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006])			
		Made a charitable donation in last year	N
		%	
All parents		78	1006
Sex*	Male	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).

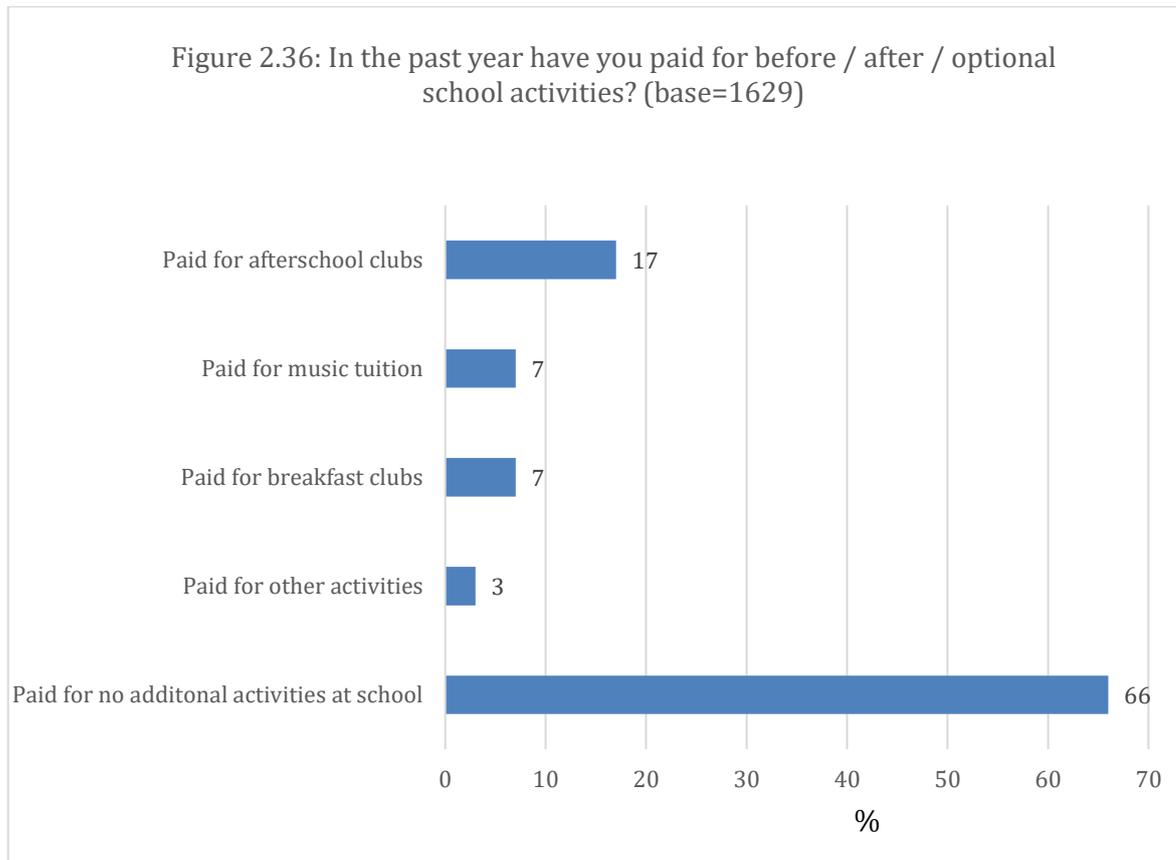
2.11 Before /After / Optional School Activities

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.



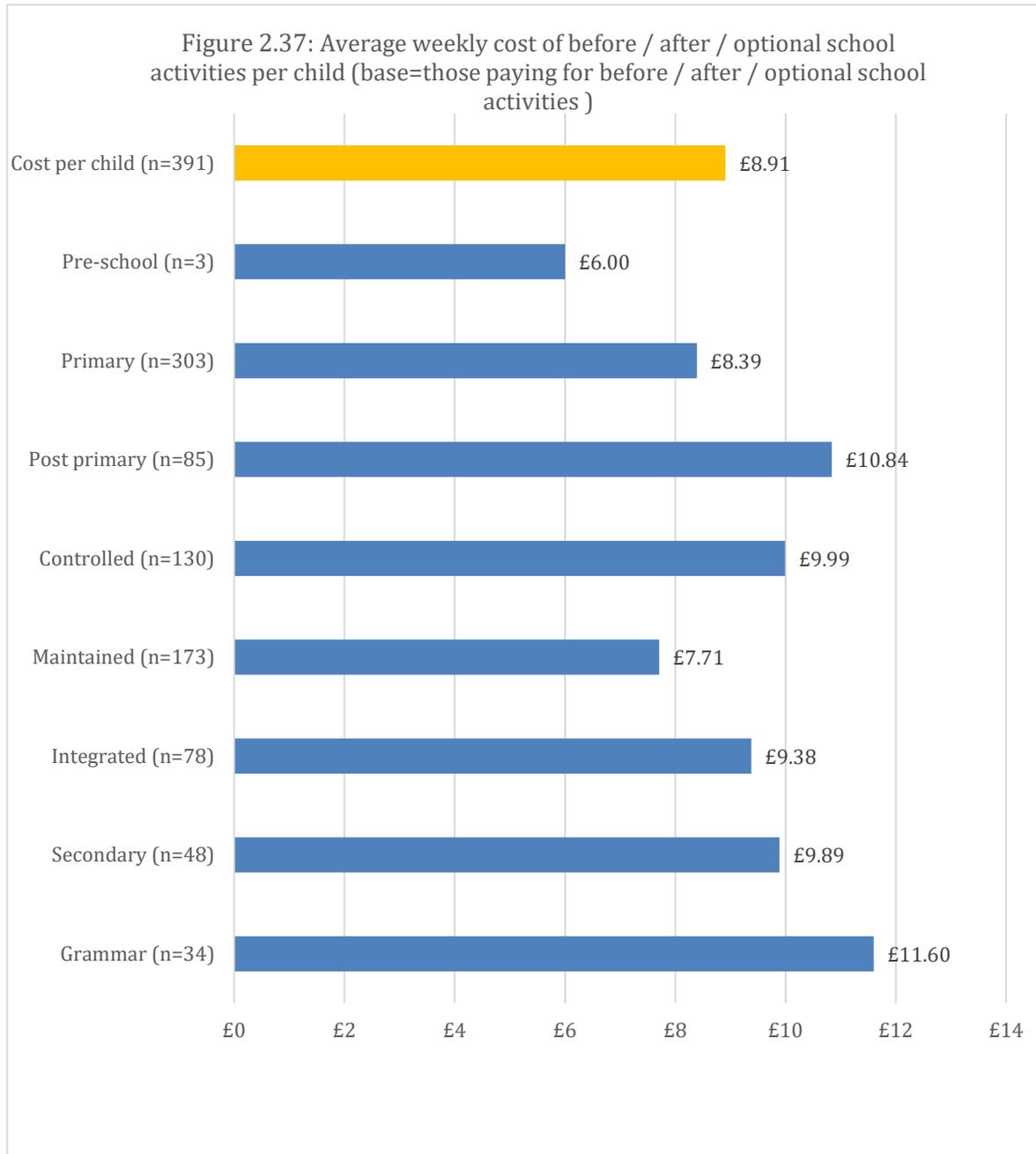
There were a number of statistically significant differences between parent groups and these are highlighted in Table 2.14. Please note that the difference by education and library board area is not statistically significant.

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.



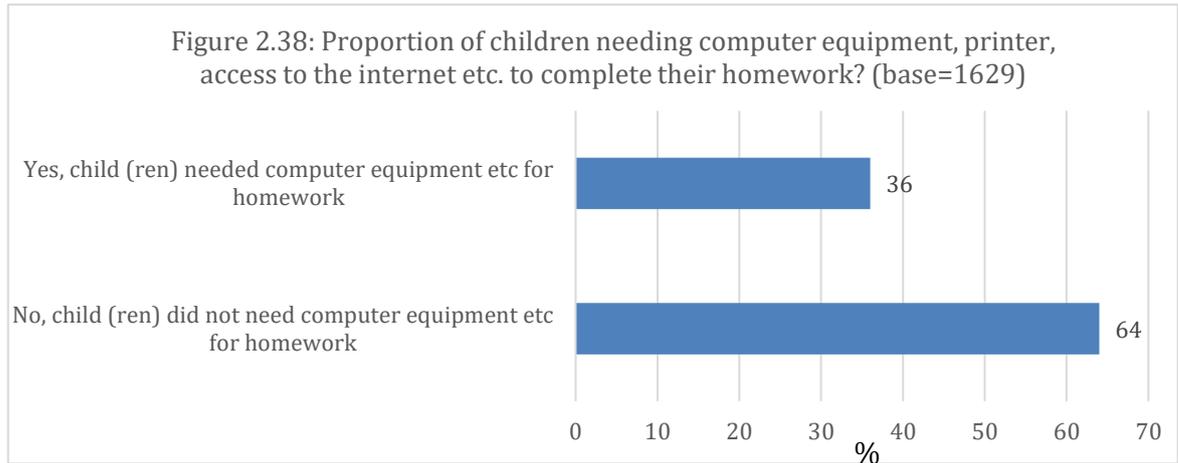
Among parents who paid for before / after / optional school activities, the average weekly cost per household was £13.34 (ranging from £1 to £90).

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.

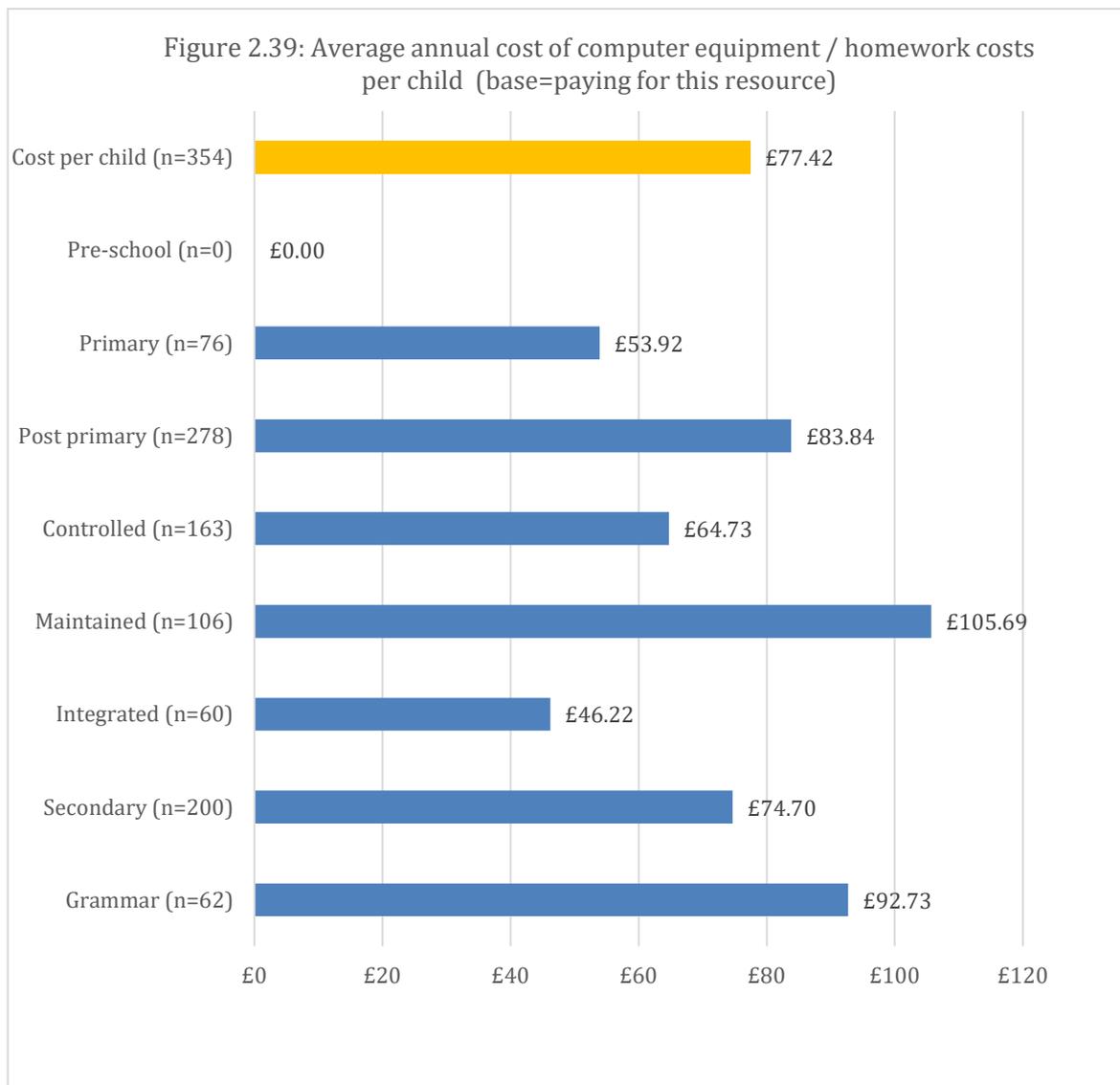
Table 2.15 Does your child (ren) need computer equipment, printer, access to the internet etc. to complete their homework by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Chid (ren) need computer equipment etc. to do homework	N
		%	
All parents		39	1006
Age*	16-34	16	257
	35 to 44	37	356
	45+	56	393
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.



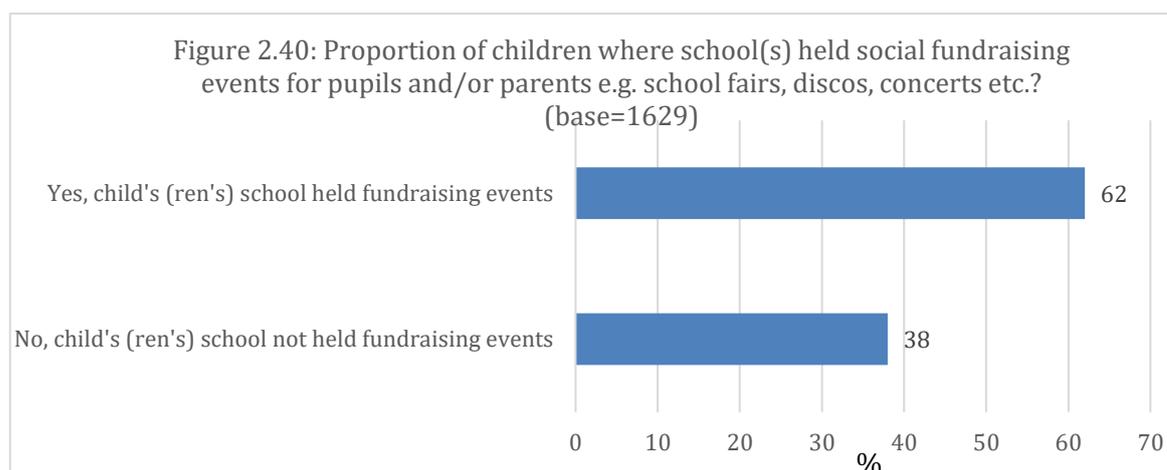
Among households in Northern Ireland who had paid for computer equipment etc., the average cost was estimated at £103.03 (ranging from £5 to £1500).

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.

		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.



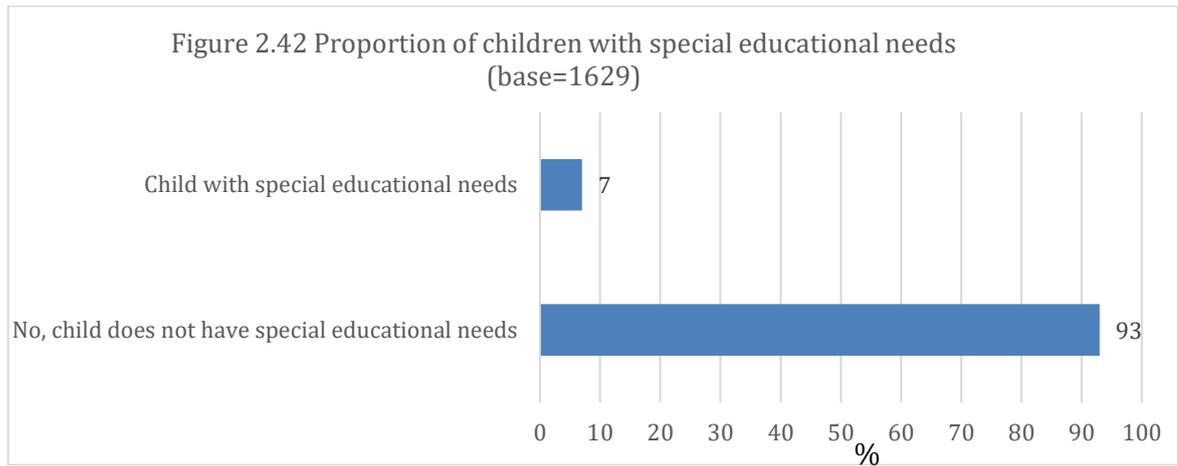
Among parents who indicated that their child's (ren's) school ran fundraising events in the last year, the average annual cost per household was £21.61 (ranging from £2 to £300).

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 ten (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			

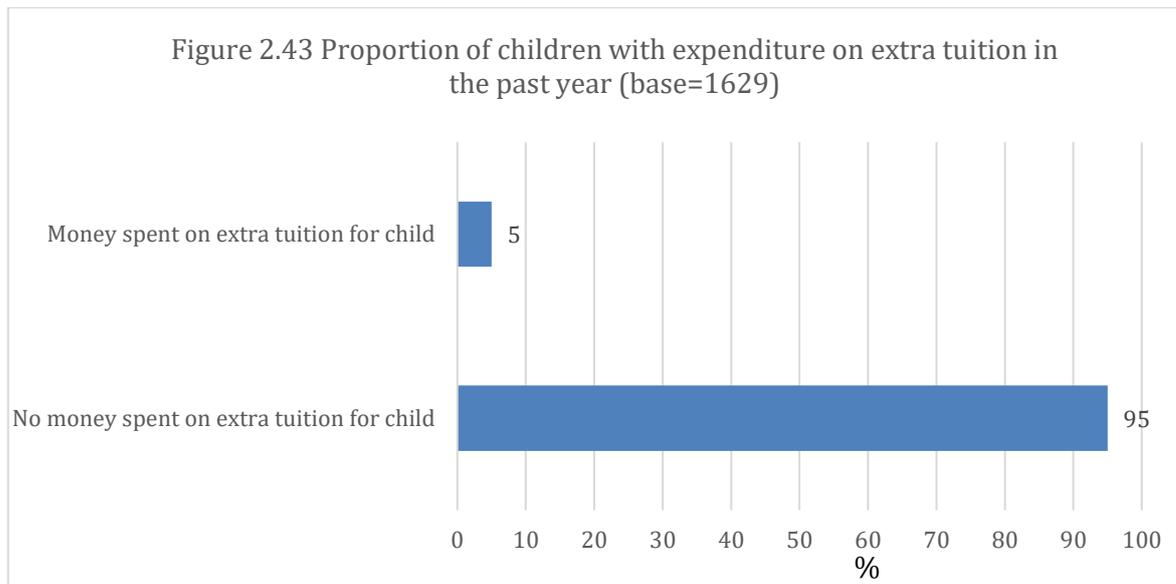
2.14.2 Cost of Items Related to Special Educational Needs per Child

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.

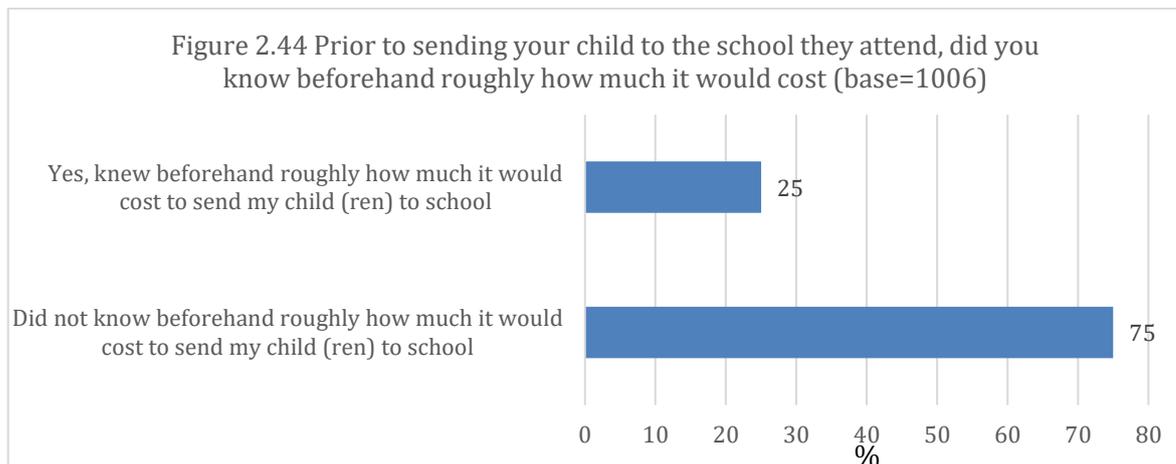
2.16.1 Prevalence of Spending on Other Activities or Items

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'.

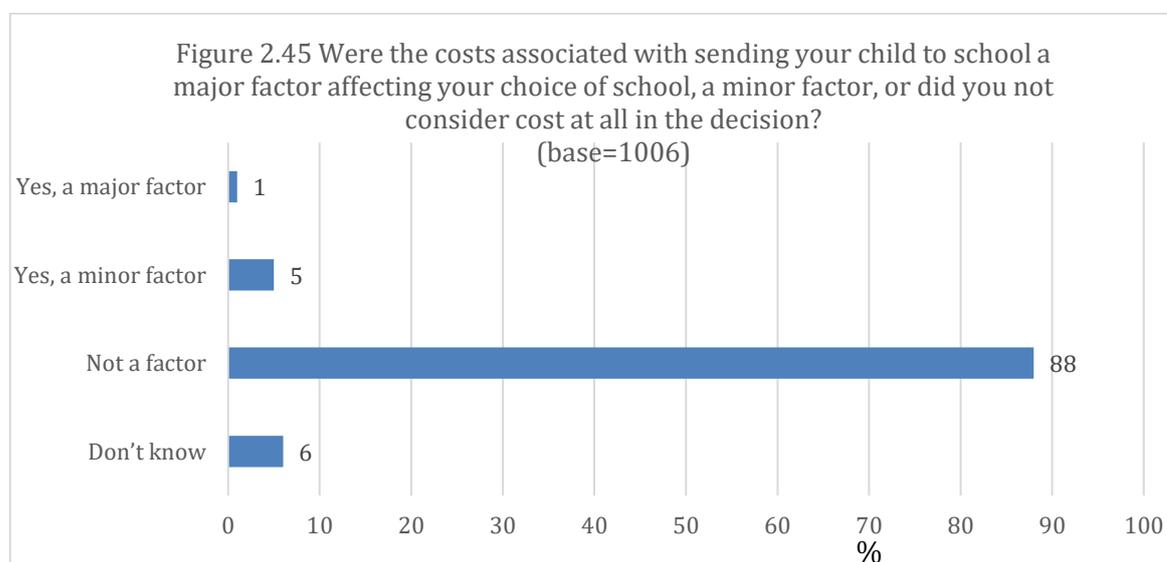


Table 2.20 shows that cost was more likely to be a factor affecting choice of school for parents with children attending maintained schools (9%). Cost was also more likely to be a factor affecting choice among parents with children attending schools in the BELB (12%) and WELB (13%) areas. Please note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

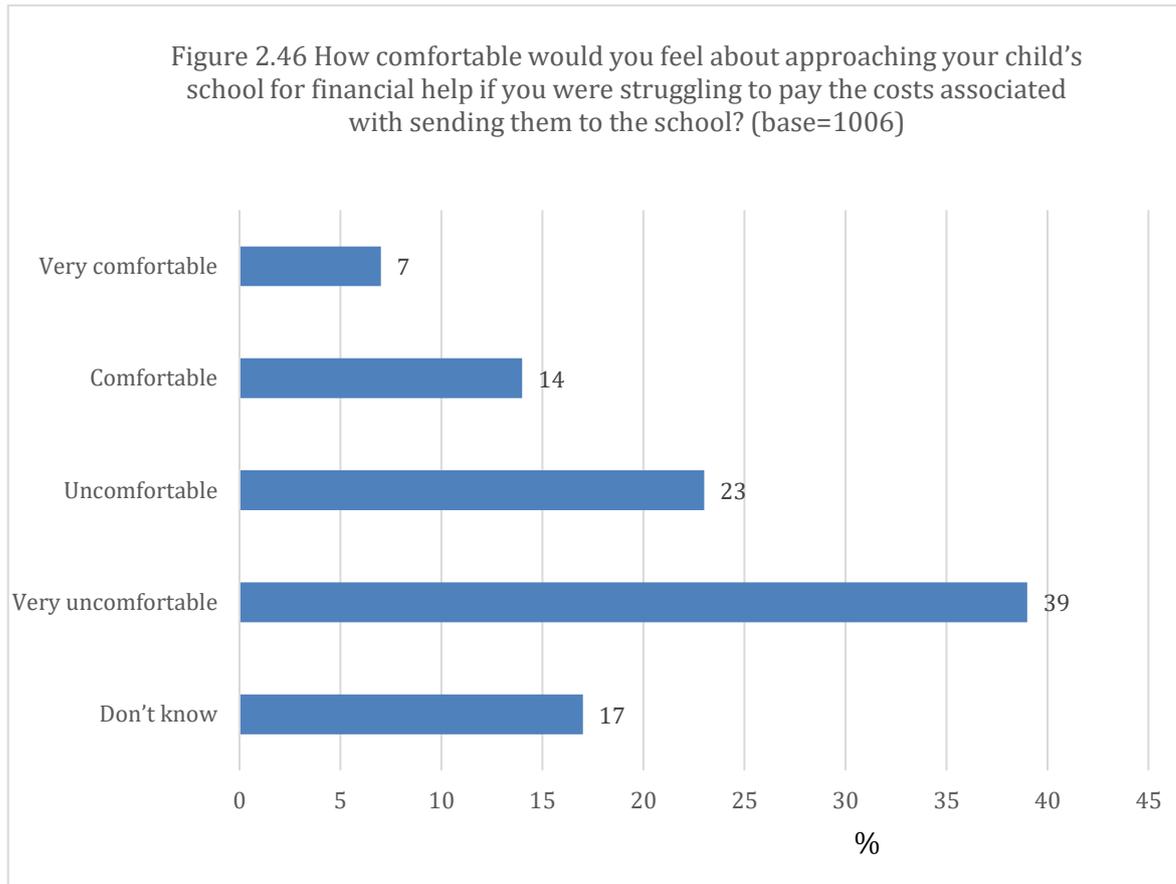
		Cost a factor in affecting choice of school	N
		%	
All parents		6	1006
School type	Pre-school children	10	60
	Primary school children	5	621
	Post primary school children	7	506
Post Primary*	Secondary	6	357
	Grammar	10	126
School management type*	Controlled	3	409
	Maintained	9	363
	Integrated	6	209
Education 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.

		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%).

	%	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

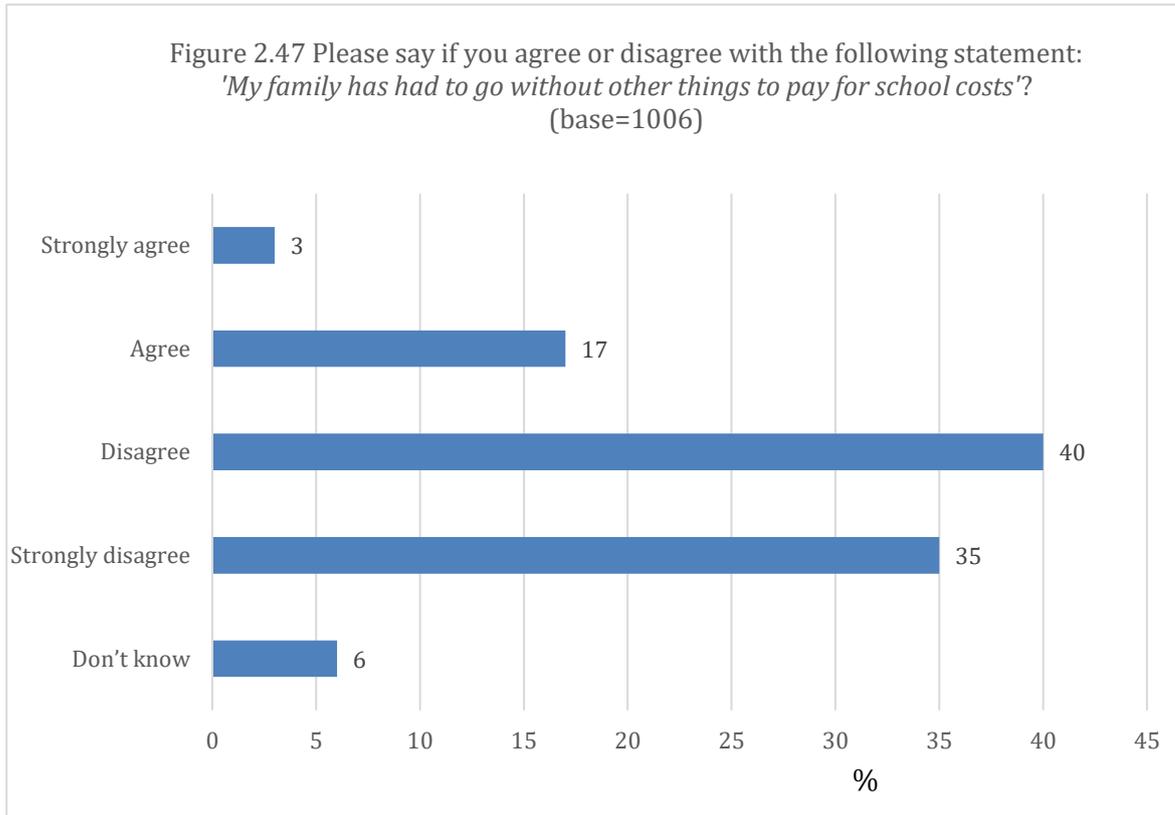
Fewer book days	0.2	1
Block paying for school meals	0.2	1
Free special needs equipment	0.2	1
Have a central fund for different things	0.2	1
School funded places	0.2	1
Less money on activities	0.2	1
Help with homework	0.2	1
Internal costs of admin could be decreased	0.2	1
Less activities	0.2	1
Less events 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.

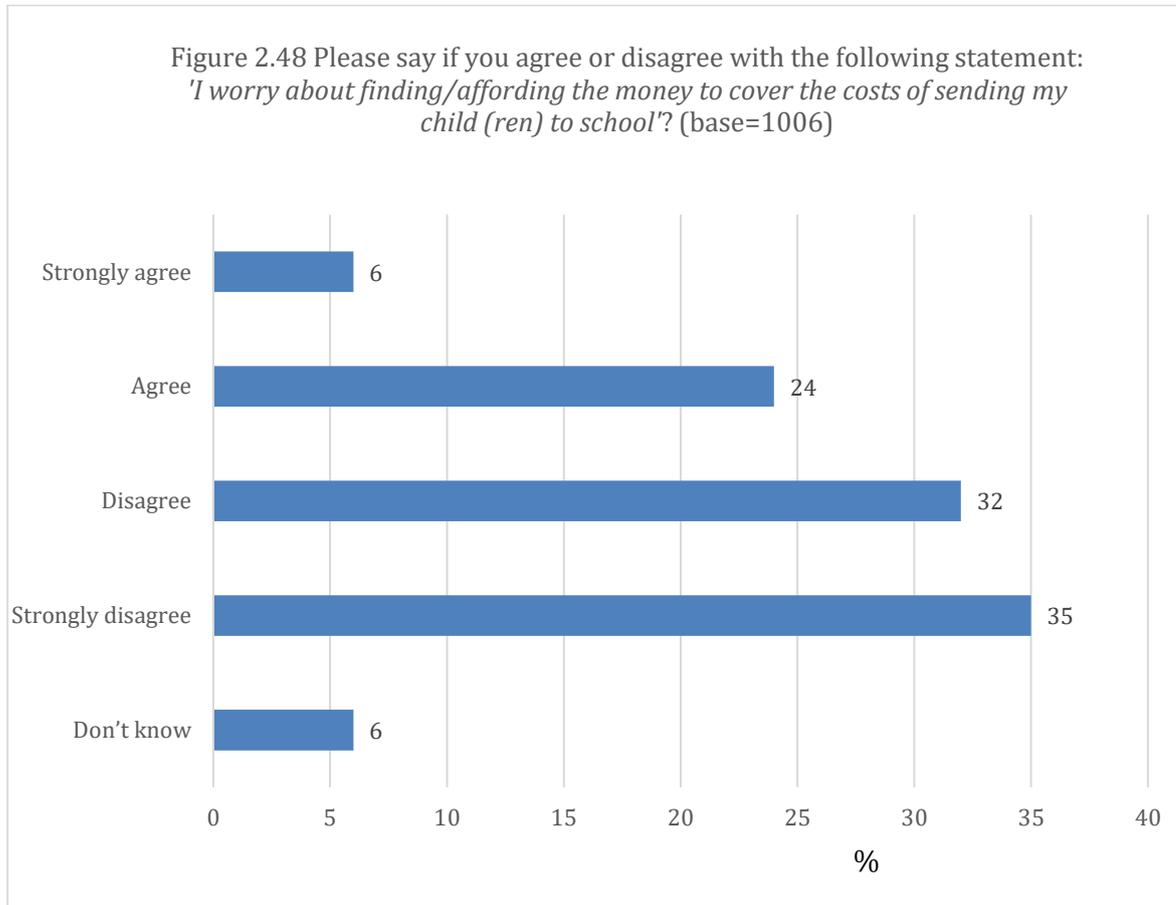
Table 2.23 Agreement with statement: 'My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs' by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Statement: 'My family has had to go without other things to pay for school costs'	N
		% Agree	
All parents		20	1006
Sex*	Male	16	425
	Female	23	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'.



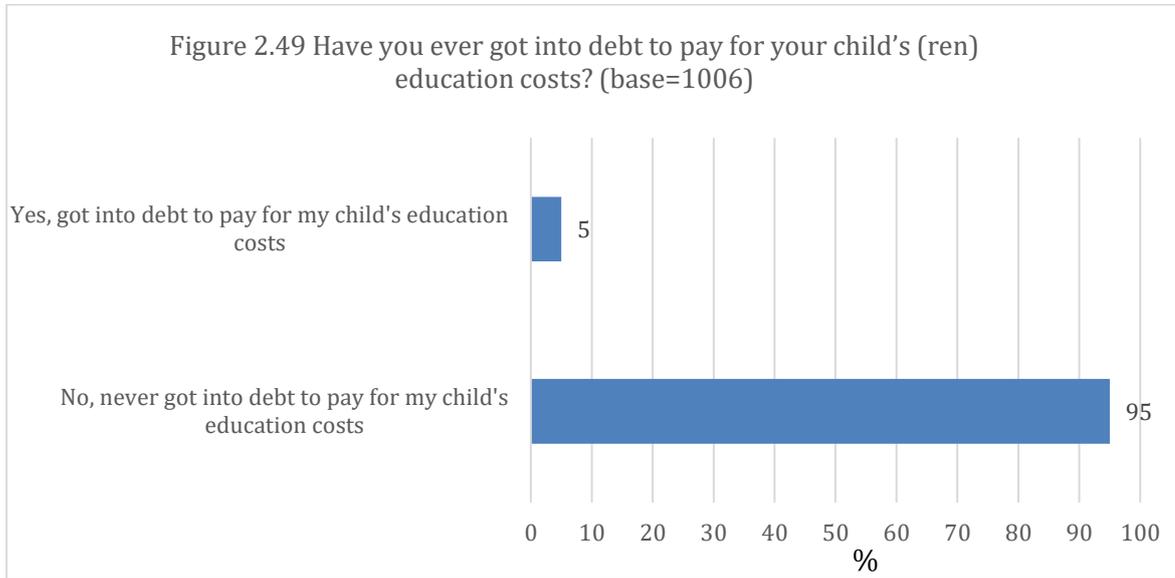
There were a number of statistically significant differences in response between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.24.

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.

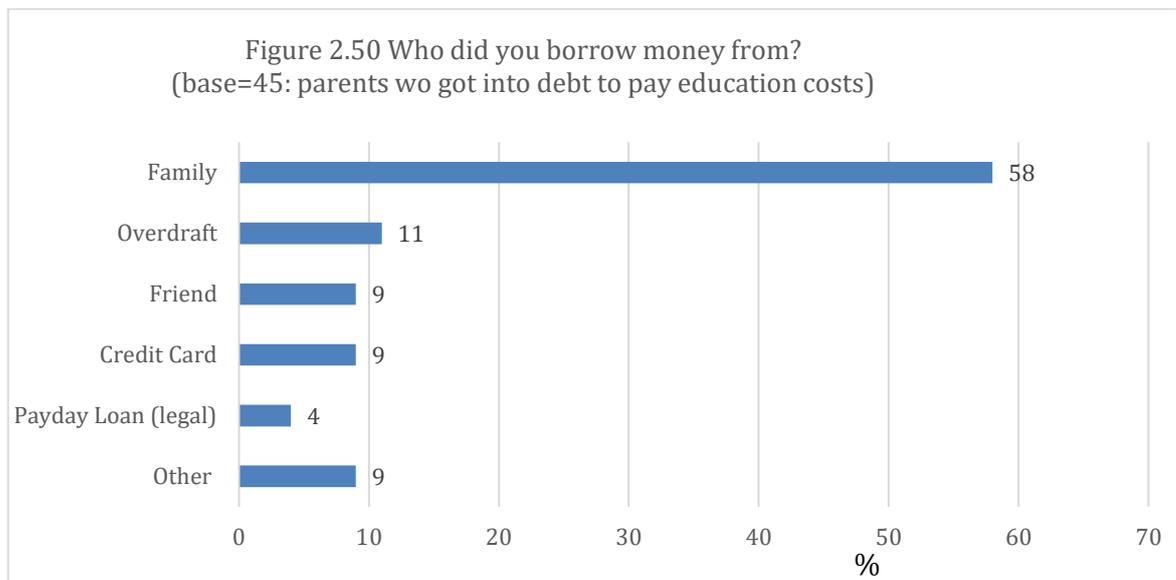
Table 2.25 Have you ever got into debt to pay for your child's (ren) education costs by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]			
		Got into debt to pay my child's education costs (%)	N
All parents		5	1006
Sex*	Male	3	425
	Female	7	581
Marital Status*	Single	10	176
	Married / cohabiting	3	737
	Separated / 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).

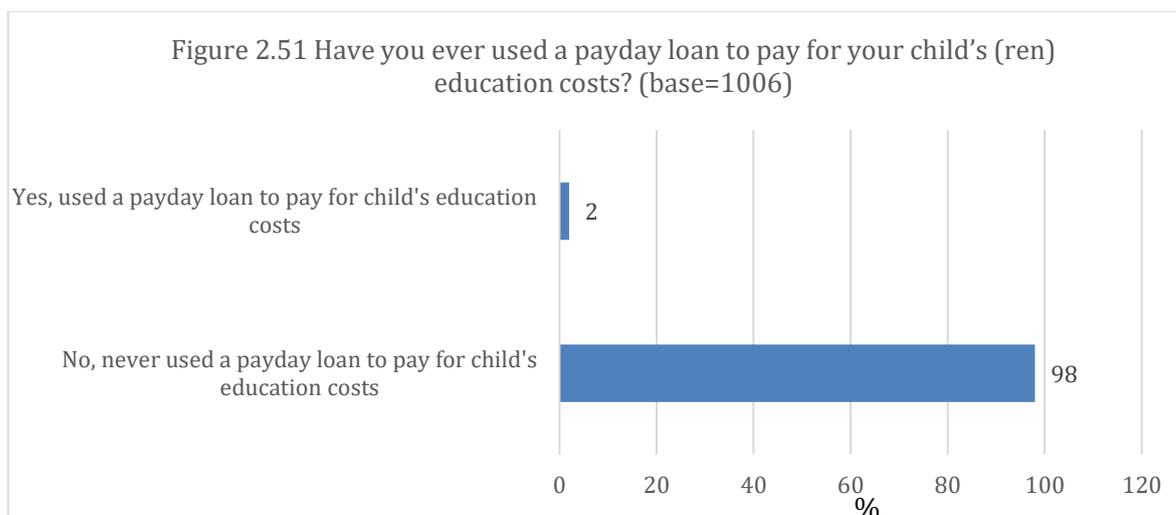
2.18.5 Source of Loan to Pay Education Costs

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 sources⁶.



2.18.6 Use of Payday Loan to Pay Education Costs

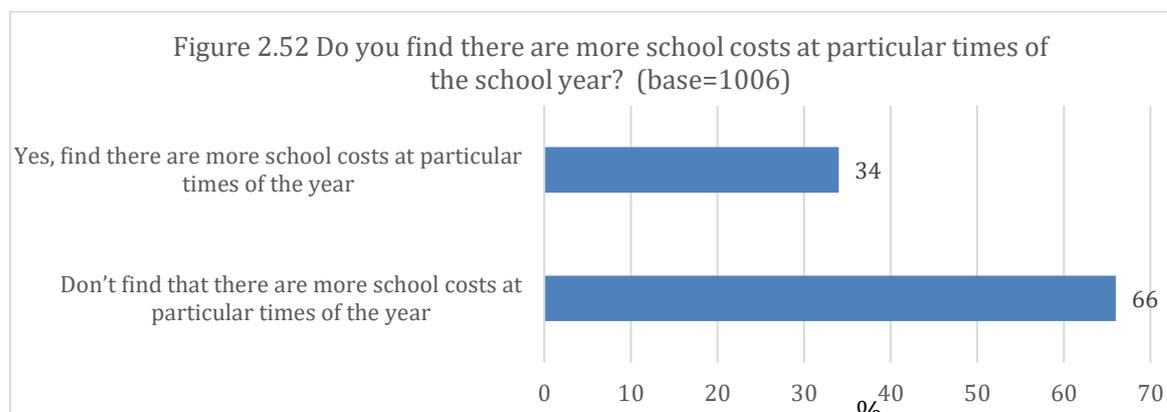
Two percent (n=23) of parents reported using a payday loan to pay for their child's (ren) education costs (note that the cell sizes are too small to facilitate sub group analysis).



⁶ Includes: credit union (n=2); local loan firm (n=1); and, savings (n=1)

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.

		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

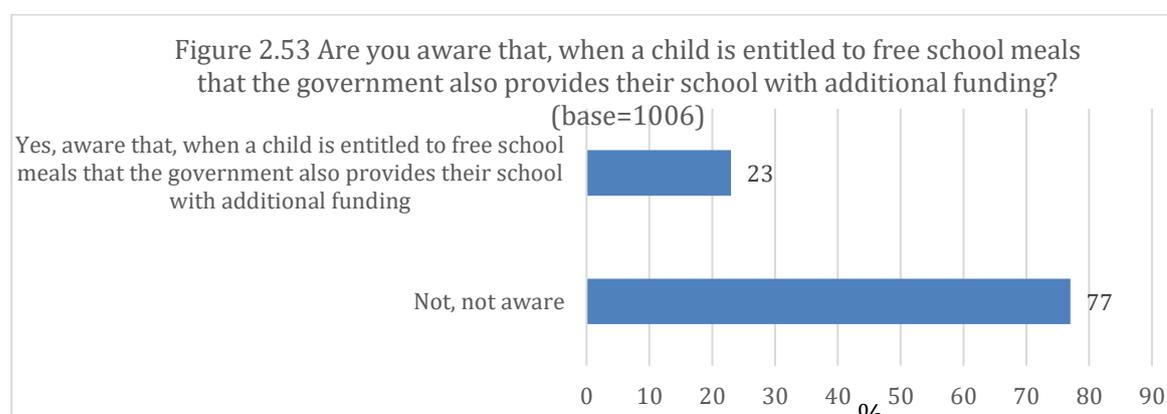
*Statistically significant

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.

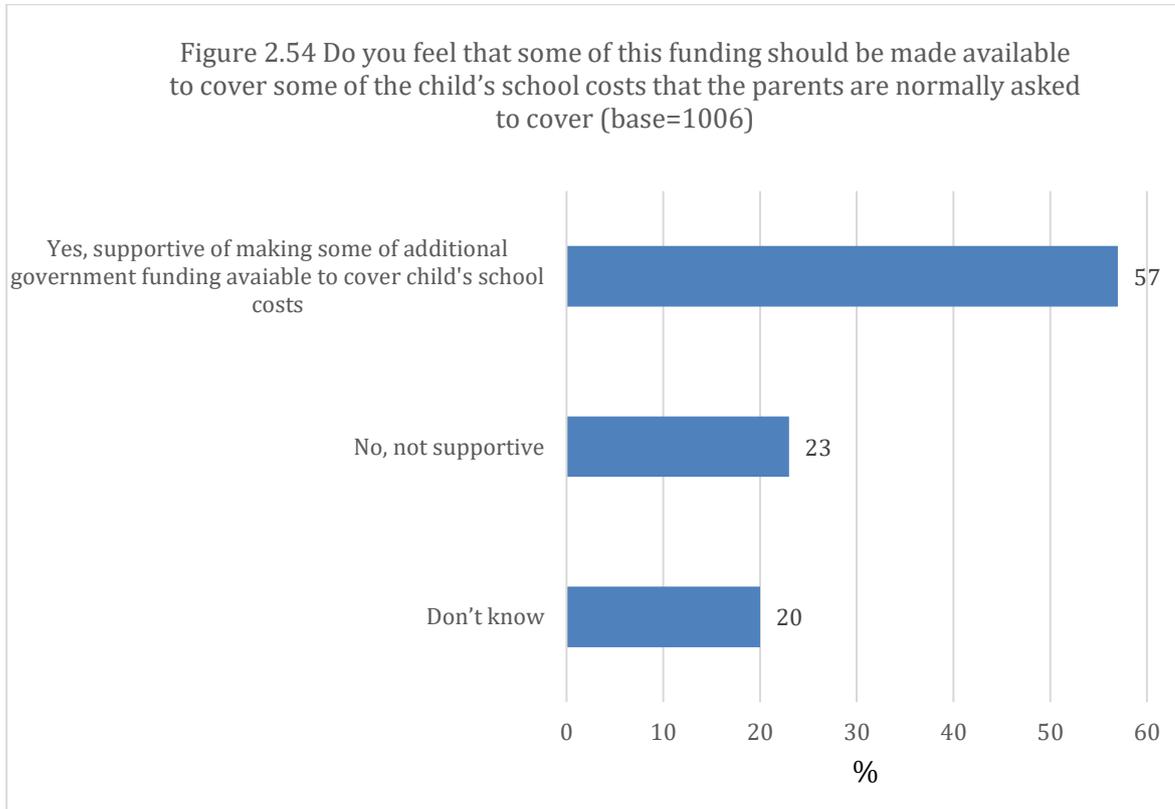
Table 2.28 Are you aware that, when a child is entitled to free school meals that the government also provides their school with additional funding by socio-demographic characteristics [N=1006]

		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

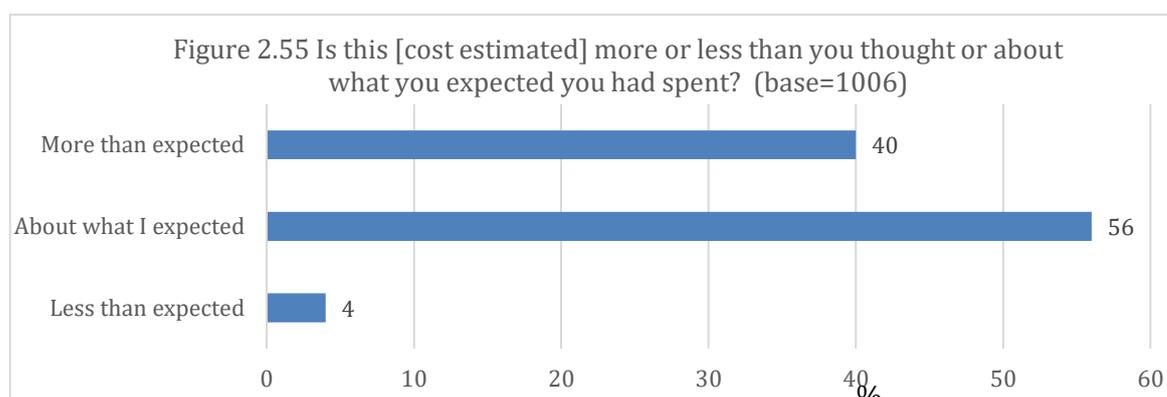
Parents were asked if they were supportive of making some of the additional funding (available to schools when child is entitled to free school meals) available to cover some of the child's school costs that the parents are normally asked to cover. Just over half (57%) of parents were supportive.



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.

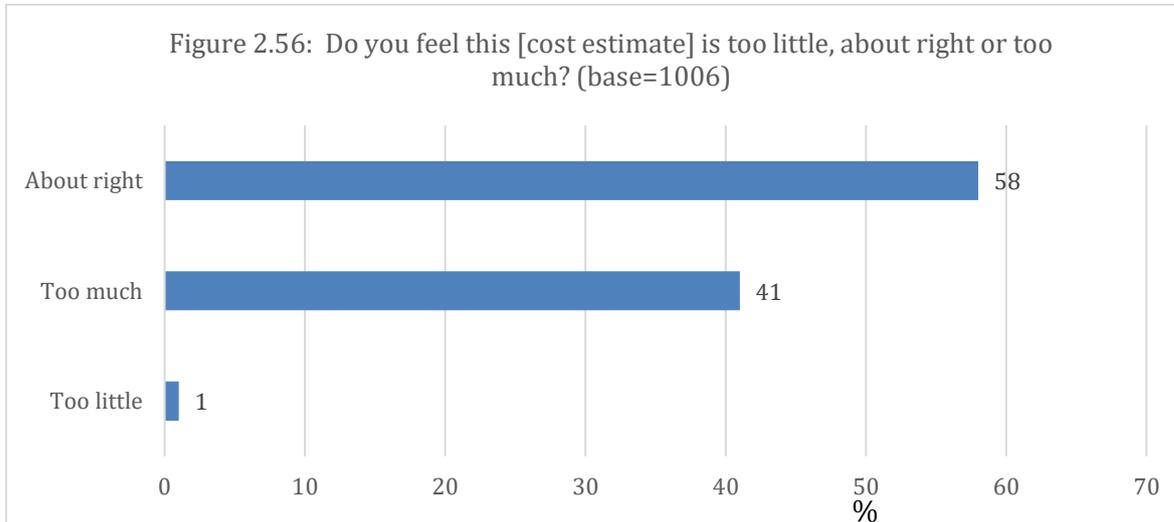


There were a number of statistically significant differences in the likelihood of having given a charitable donation in the last year between different respondent subgroups and these are highlighted in Table 2.29. Please note that differences between school type and school management type are not statistically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

		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].

	%	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



3 Wellington Park
Belfast
BT9 6DJ

T: 02890 923362
F: 02890 923334

info@socialmarketresearch.co.uk
www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk



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-primary	post 16 further education college	7	7	7	7	7
	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. INTERVIEWER 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]	
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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	School bag	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
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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	
Child 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
Child 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	
Child 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	Go to M3
Child 1	1	
Child 2	2	
Child 3	3	
Child 4	4	
Child 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		
Child 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
Child 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		
Child 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
Child 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		
Child 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
Child 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
Child 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