



# The Real Cost of School in 2024

Back to School Survey – Full Report

July 2024



**Barnardos**

Because childhood lasts a lifetime



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## 1. Introduction

For 20 years, Barnardos has highlighted the costs incurred by parents in preparing their children to return to school each September, reporting on the pressures parents are directly experiencing in providing for back to school costs.

***'Government need to prevent schools from adding all these extra costs on families. A right to free education isn't happening.'* (Primary school parent)**

Although the Irish Constitution guarantees all children have a right to free education in Ireland, this has never truly been the case. In Budget 2023, the Government took a progressive step towards making it a reality by providing free schoolbooks to all primary school students and the junior cycle in secondary school. However, despite this development, school expenses remain high for many parents, with some finding themselves in financial distress each summer as they try to meet back to school costs.

***'A basic need and right of children shouldn't be crippling families across the nation in order to care for their educational wellbeing.'* (Secondary school parent)**

***'Education is supposed to be free and it is not there are constant fee requests from the school it's too much pressure.'* (Secondary school parent)**

It is important the Government continues the positive momentum and builds on recent actions to provide a truly free education to all children in Ireland. Barnardos calls on the government to prioritise these five steps:

- 1. Extend free schoolbooks to all children in the senior cycle**
- 2. Mandate all schools have an affordable uniform option**
- 3. Increase back to school allowance increase and expand eligibility**
- 4. Increase capitation rate and end voluntary contributions**
- 5. Reduce the cost of digital devices schools place on parents.**



## 2. Methodology

Each year, Barnardos undertakes an online survey of parents to find out the costs they will incur for their child returning to education in September. A link to the survey is shared with the public and our supporters<sup>1</sup> through various channels, including the media, email and social media.

This year the survey was live from the 19<sup>th</sup> June to the 20<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. A total of over 900 responses were received. These responses represented the costs associated with 500 primary school pupils and 410 secondary school students. The costs examined in the survey comprise the basics required for returning to school, such as schoolbooks, school uniforms, classroom resources, digital technology and voluntary contributions, as well as school tours and trips.

## 3. Profile of Respondents

Survey respondents came from a cross-section of Irish society, with a representative geographic spread. Respondents covered all classes and years within the primary and secondary school cycles<sup>2</sup>.

- The majority of survey respondents described themselves as being mothers (92%), while 6% described themselves as being fathers, 1% described themselves as being grandmothers and an additional 1% were other relatives or carers.
- 24% of parents said they were in receipt of the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance<sup>3</sup>.
- Parents from every county across the country responded to the survey, with approximately half (62%) describing themselves as living in urban areas

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals who have agreed to receive information from the organisation.

<sup>2</sup> The profile of respondents was found to closely match the general population for most areas, such as employment, educational attainment and family composition.

<sup>3</sup> Criteria set out here [Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance \(citizensinformation.ie\)](https://citizensinformation.ie/back-to-school-clothing-and-footwear-allowance)



and the remaining 38% living in rural areas.

- Almost three-quarters of parents (73%) were either in full time or part time work. Just under one in seven (13%) described themselves as homemakers, 3% as full or part-time carers, 2% as unable to work, 2% as students and just under 3% as being unemployed.
- 64% of parents said they were married, 9% were cohabiting with partners and 21% were lone parent families.
- The children of the parents who responded to the survey attended an even mix of all school classes and years across primary and secondary school, and attended the full range of schools, with approximately 23% in (DEIS) schools<sup>4</sup>.
- Of the secondary school parents who filled out the survey 46% said they had one child in school, 36% had two, 14% three and 4% had four or more. For primary school parents the numbers were 32% with one child, 47% with two, 16% three and 5% four or more.

## 4. Back to School Costs

Results from our survey continue to show that parents are concerned about meeting costs this summer. Half of primary (51%) and 70% of secondary school parents stated they are worried about meeting costs this year, (13% of primary school parents and 21% of secondary school parents said they were very concerned).

***'There is a constant worry of being able to keep up with the basic needs for my son to attend school.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'Trying to get everything paid before they go back to school is very tough.'* (Primary school parent)**

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<sup>4</sup> This is comparable to national statistics which suggests approximately one quarter of children in Ireland attend DEIS schools.



Only 30% of secondary school parents said that costs were manageable. Six percent of secondary and one percent of primary school parents said they simply would not be able to meet costs.

The survey findings show that lone parent families are particularly struggling with back to school costs. For example 4% of married/cohabating secondary school parents said they won't be able to meet back to school costs compared to 12% of lone parent secondary school parents.

## Paying for Back to School Costs

*'We are struggling to meet increased mortgage and higher bills and groceries despite both working hard. Back to school means another loan for us.'*

*'(Secondary school parent)*

*'Families are under severe pressure and something needs to change, me along with many other parents are tired of financial struggles with constant bills on top of trying to educate our children. '(Primary school parent)*

Costs for parents - €	2024	2023
<b>Uniforms</b>		
Primary	€119	€117
Secondary	€211	€204
<b>Voluntary contribution</b>		
Primary	€98	€101
Secondary	€124	€143
<b>Schoolbooks</b>		
Primary	€0	€0
Secondary (Senior Cycle)	€202	€218



<b>Classroom resources<sup>5</sup></b>		
Primary	€51	€51
Secondary	€69	€71
<b>School tours and trips</b>		
Primary	€65	
Secondary	€151	
<b>Extra-curricular activities within school<sup>6</sup></b>		
Primary	€87	
Secondary	€113	
<b>Digital Costs</b>		
Primary	€51	€48
Secondary	€168	€147

Parents were asked how they planned to meet back to school costs this year. One quarter of secondary (25%) and almost one fifth (18%) primary school parents said they have to use savings in order to meet back to school costs. Worryingly, more than one in five (21%) of secondary and one in ten (12%) of primary school parents said they had to take a loan out or borrow from friends to meet school costs. For some families it requires cutting back on other essential areas or simply not purchasing all required school items in advance of their children starting back.

***'It means we cannot afford any luxuries like a takeaway. I need to cut back on weekly shopping so I have the money for the school.'* (Primary school parent)**

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<sup>5</sup> 14% of primary and 30% of secondary school parents said they did not have to contribute anything towards classroom resources

<sup>6</sup> 30% of primary and 55% of secondary parents said they did not have pay for extra-curricular activities within school



***'Not being able to afford to pay for everything before the kids go back to school and them being embarrassed by it.'* (Secondary school parent)**

Below we set out costs for specific years within primary and secondary school. It is clear that certain years provide significant cost pressures for families, particularly as children enter secondary school.

<b>Costs for parents 2024 - €</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> class</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> year</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> year</b>
<b>Uniforms</b>	137	242	209
<b>Books</b>	0	0	213
<b>School trips and tours</b>	62	163	155
<b>Digital tools</b>	51	223	187
<b>Classroom resources*</b>	51	82	63
<b>Voluntary contributions*</b>	75	141	110
<b>Extra-curricular activities in school</b>	81	115	114
<b>Total</b>	457	966	1051

\* Average amount of those asked to pay classroom resources, extra-curricular activities and voluntary contributions.

No parent should face additional stress and financial pressure to ensure their child has all they need to start back to school. The Government has reduced some expenses but there is an opportunity to do more to reduce costs for parents. We address each area individually below.





## Uniforms

One of the biggest costs parents face regarding education in the run up to schools returning in September are school uniforms. On average, primary school parents spent €119 on uniforms and secondary school parents spent €211 this year. The vast majority of parents, two thirds of primary 67% and four in five (79%) of secondary school parents, felt costs had gone up from last year. Less than 2% of all parents said there had been a decrease.

When asked about whether or not they were worried about meeting the cost of uniforms this year, 85% of primary school parents said they were worried (24% very worried) and 90% of secondary school parents expressed worry (39% were very worried). Only 15% (primary) and 10% (secondary) of parents said they were not worried at all.

Most parents stated that uniforms are costly due to the requirement to purchase crested/branded uniforms. Seventy percent of primary school and 90% of secondary school parents who responded said their children had to wear crested/branded uniforms. Only 19% of primary and 4% of secondary school parents said their children had plain uniforms and 11% (primary)/7% (secondary) said their child had no uniform. A high proportion of parents expressed their frustration of having to buy expensive crested uniforms, when there is an easy way to reduce costs in this area, allow parents to buy affordable generic items and then iron on the crests.

***'Not every item of the uniform should have to be crested.'*** (Secondary school parent)

***'I would like to see non crested uniforms that do not cost a small fortune.'*** (Secondary school parent)

***'A competitive market. At present we can only buy from one shop.'*** (Secondary school parent)

***'Also if we could buy school crests to sew onto a jumper. If they did a deal where we could buy jumper from large supermarket.'*** (Secondary school parent)



**'Being able to buy the trousers/polo shirts from a big supermarket store. 3 shirts alone from supermarket is still cheaper than one with the school crest on it.'**  
(Primary school parent)

**'Crested everything from jacket to tracksuit to jumper. Specific girls trousers with pinstripe that can't be bought cheaply in a chain store. Well over €300 to start child in 1st year with uniform alone.'** (Secondary school parent)

**'I would like to see kids can use own coat that's a big cost and use unbranded footwear instead of strictly there approved black trainers as it hard to get trainers with no logo and no other colour in them so you have to pay 70 euro for the limited choice out there. A plain black trousers would be nice instead of the gray ones as the shops charge more for them as they know there for school.'**  
(Secondary school parent)

**'Gone from plain uniform to a crested one so gone from under €50 for tee and jumpers for 3 to 160 for one jumper and 2 tees for 2 children plus the rest and a full uniform crested for secondary.'** (Secondary school parent)

In some instances parents are being compelled to purchase new jumpers when children move years, because of a slight difference, they find this particularly exasperating as it is an unnecessary expense

**'Generic jumpers with purchasable crests. My daughter needs new jumper as she is going into transition year, exact same except red line pure stupidity but still €69.'** (Secondary school parent)

One of the growing issues for parents over recent years has been expansion of having to buy branded uniform as well as branded tracksuits, adding considerable expense.

**'They induced a tracksuit last year, that just adds to cost, also the pants and skirt has to be bought from a certain shop or it can't be worn.'** (Secondary school parent)

**'Standardise uniform so alternatives can be bought from normal clothing retailers and have the option to sew the school crest onto jumpers. Most expensive cost is the tracksuit as there is no alternative choice.'** (Primary school parent)

**'The school has recently added a branded tracksuit and last year a branded jersey/tshirt that is compulsory this is putting an extra 120-150 on to uniform cost. This should not be the case. Then after paying all that money they can only wear the tracksuit-tshirt one day a week when they have pe. It's despicable**



***behaviour on the schools side. The uniform already coats a fortune not to mention the plain black shoes.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'They could leave the school tracksuits as just plain black tracksuits that people can get anywhere rather than crested expensive ones.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'They have regular uniform and tracksuit uniform for PE. It would be more affordable to just have the tracksuit and not two uniform.' (Primary school parent)***

More and more parents are raising the issue of having to buy additional branded items which adds considerable cost, in particularly to coats.

***'Have generic uniform and allow kids were their own coat, my child was sent home twice for wearing her own coat when it rained , I couldn't afford the coat until The end of the school year and her and her older brother shared a coat over the winter, it's a navy coat with a crest, she wore a plain navy coat when it rained but this was not acceptable to the school.' (Primary school parent)***

***'The school coat is about 80 euro the school is freezing and they are not allowed to wear their own coat only a branded coat. It's a scandal.' (Secondary school parent)***

Parents continued to express their frustration at having to purchase branded uniforms given the fact that their children are often growing at a rapid rate, need to buy new crested items after only a few months.

***'Uniform costs for a growing teenager means needing multiple purchases each year at extortionate costs, €64 per trouser.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'Perhaps mandating unbranded / plain uniforms. My biggest cost during the year is replacing jumpers and trousers when the boys put holes in them etc. The school is very fussy about the type of trousers worn and the coat which must be worn which is not very warm in the winter.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'And boys have large feet the price for them are terrible. And his feet are still growing we had to get 3 pairs last year as well as larger trousers and shirts'.  
(Secondary school parent)***

Numerous parents raised the issue of having to buy plain black shoes. They can be difficult to get and make it more expensive for parents.



**'The shoes alone are over €100 per pair without trainers & are certainly not good for ankle support.'** (Primary school parent)

**'Shoes should be any type, not proper ones as my son is size 12 shoes and it's very expensive for me.'** (Secondary school parent)

In 2017, the Department of Education recommended, through a Circular, that schools should reduce the costs associated with uniforms by opting for iron or sew on crests on school uniforms and wherever possible, requiring generic rather than branded items, including uniforms. Unfortunately, too many schools continue to fail to implement this recommendation.

There are clearly schools taking progressive action to reduce cost and financial pressure on parents around school uniforms. One parent for example discussed how her child's school organises second hand uniform sales twice a year, encouraging parents to reduce their costs considerably. However, 84% of secondary school and 78% of primary school parents said that their children's school did not offer an affordable uniform option. When asked if their school could do more to lower the cost of their child's uniform 73% of primary and 80% of secondary school parents said yes.

Parents see progress being made around school meals and schoolbooks but often regressive action at a school level when it comes to uniforms. The suggestions from parents as to how to tackle the issue ranged from the introduction of 'free uniforms' to placing a cap on the amount of all educational uniforms to providing a standard tax credit for all school clothing.

## **Back to School Allowance**

The Department of Social Protection provides support to help with the cost of sending children to school through the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA). This allowance is available to families on a low income such as those in receipt of a social welfare payment (including Working Family Payment) or taking part in approved employment schemes and recognised education and training courses. Each year, hundreds of thousands of children benefit from the



BSCFA. It is a vital benefit parents receive to help them meet the costs of the school year ahead<sup>7</sup>.

Almost one quarter (24%) of parents completing the survey said that they receive the allowance. More than three quarters (76%) of them reported it did not cover the costs of uniform and footwear. This was a considerable increase from last year (64%), reflecting the fact that last year there was a €100 once off increase to the allowance. It is clear there is a need for the increase to be made permanent going forward.

***'Increase back to school €160 is not enough for a primary school giving that the cost is 560 !! for everything.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'Increase the payment slightly to allow for an extra pair of shoes. The new shoes I got my son for September only lasted him 3 months'. (Secondary school parent)***

A significant amount of parents suggested the threshold for receiving the allowance should be lowered, stating that they were struggling to meet school costs but weren't entitled to any state support, as their incomes were too high, or they were not in receipt of a state welfare payment. Many respondents suggested the allowance should be seen as a universal support.

***All parents should be given back to school allowance. (Primary school parent)***

***'As a single mother that works full time. I am not entitled to anything from the government. I am over the threshold of 100 euro for Family income supplement. It's the middle people who are losing out. I wish this could change. I pay 250 euro every year to the school.'* (Secondary school parent)**

***'Make the back to school allowance eligible to every family like the children's allowance.'* (Secondary school parent)**

***'Back to school allowance for ALL, similar to child benefit. With another child starting school in September, costs are doubling and it is not that easy to fund.'* (Primary school parent)**

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<sup>7</sup> [gov - Minister Humphreys announces over 126,000 families to receive Back to School Allowance this week \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



Some parents suggested that if the Back to School Allowance is not expanded there should be some form of additional child benefit payment for families during the summer to help them address back to school costs.

***'There is nothing in place to help working parents. There should be tax relief or tax breaks.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'Give every parent the back to school allowance or double the children's allowance and not just for people on welfare. Double children's allowance would not even cover the price of school.'* (Secondary school parent)**

## **Schoolbooks and Classroom Resources**

Barnardos welcomed the announcement of free schoolbooks to all primary school children in Budget 2023. Parents themselves repeatedly stated what a welcome measure it was, reducing pressure on them.

***'The book / copy scheme is very helpful since last year. It takes a huge pressure off.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'It's great to see the free books and copies scheme introduced in the schools.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'The free book scheme has been so helpful'.* (Primary school parent)**

***'The free school book made a huge positive impact for me this last academic year and it was a very welcomed scheme. It made a very challenging time somewhat less challenging. I am very appreciative of it.'* (Primary school parent)**

However, Barnardos would like to see this expanded until all children in school in the Republic of Ireland qualify to receive free schoolbooks. The average cost of schoolbooks in 2024 for senior cycle secondary school is €202. Parents consistently responded that the free schoolbook scheme should be extended to all secondary schools.

86% of primary and 70% of secondary school parents said they were asked to contribute towards classroom resources, where the average cost was €51 and €69 respectively for those who did.



## Digital Tools

Overall, primary school parents spent €51 on average on digital costs while secondary school parents spent €168. Over two in five (41%) secondary school parents who have to purchase digital devices for their children stated they had to pay over €300 for those digital costs (50% of parents with children entering first year said they had to pay over €300). It is clearly an area of growing concern for many parents, in particular secondary school parents.

***'Even though the books are free this year, we still have to pay €1,200 for a child starting secondary because of the laptop cost. This means we cannot afford a holiday this year. This impacts on the whole family's mental health.'* (Secondary school parent)**

For many, it is a huge growing cost inflicted upon them, just as they were beginning to reap the benefits of the introduction of free schoolbooks. There are concerns about the financial pressure being placed on families who struggle to afford new laptops and tablets for their children. Some parents are required to seek high interest loans to pay for these items, which may take years to pay back.

***'Digital devices are a fortune. €700 for the school laptop. €900 if I pay in instalments.'* (Secondary school parent)**

From our survey it is clear that there is huge variance across schools, with some requiring little to no money to be spent on digital items whilst others are having to spend over €1,000. A few parents actually stated that it was influencing their decision on where they would be sending their child to school, with one parent saying she had changed where her daughter would go, knowing that she would have to pay over €1,000 for an iPad in the school she originally planned to send her daughter.

For many of the schools that do require digital tools, they request specific high end expensive items such as top of the range iPads that. Parents are not given a choice to purchase more affordable alternatives. Parents said they need additional support meeting digital costs or else there must be affordable options put in place.

***'Help pay for iPad which cost me €950'. (Secondary school parent)***



***'I could really do with help towards electronic devices that school has said we to buy at a cost of €740'. (Secondary school parent)***

***'I had to pay full fees for TY next year (€650) plus buy a Chromebook (€510) for TY next year in the last 4 months. I did not expect the fees to fall due so soon and we were given no notice for the chromebooks as a new policy.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'Two children in secondary needing laptops is a big cost.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'Any device should be allowed rather than being forced to purchase a school specific device.' (Secondary school parent)***

Imposing a substantial cost on parents for digital items is wholly unfair and unjust. The Department of Education must look to address this issue, by investigating how many schools are requesting parents purchase these items, set out maximum amounts schools can request parents pay for items and potentially introduce a fund for low income families who are required to buy items over a certain amount.

## **Voluntary contributions**

78% of primary and 80% of secondary school parents said that their schools requested a voluntary contribution at the start of the school year. The average amount asked for by schools was €98 for primary school parents and €124 for secondary school parents. The range of contributions varied considerably, with some schools requesting €20 from parents while others looked for over €300. This fee can add significant pressure for parents. In most cases schools across ask parents to make this 'voluntary' contribution to help fund the running costs of the school, however there is limited transparency as to where the funds are actually spent.

Almost two-thirds of parents (64%) said that it did not feel voluntary. Four in five secondary school parents (77%) and two thirds of primary school parents (68%) said that parents should not have to pay it.

***'Voluntary Contribution but they email to let you know that you still haven't paid it.' (Primary school parent)***





***'The school doesn't ask for a voluntary fee, it demands a fee be paid or the child will not receive resources'. (Secondary school parent)***

Parents stated they wanted to see voluntary contributions abolished, mainly by making sure schools are fully funded so they would not need to rely on parents. The average amount of voluntary contributions this year decreased slightly for both primary and secondary school parents, perhaps reflecting the increase in the capitation grant in Budget 2024.

***'Increased payments to schools to support materials and building costs.' (Primary school parent)***

***'Pay the schools more directly so parents don't have to make up the shortfall.' (Secondary school parent)***

***'Honour their commitments, do not leave schools stranded and needing to reply on funding from the parents.' (Primary school parent)***

In some cases parents felt at a minimum it should be clear what the money was going to be spent on.

***'More transparency of what the voluntary contribution goes towards'. (Secondary school parent)***

***'Be more informative on the issue of voluntary contributions and additional payments that schools look for from parents.' (Primary school parent)***

## **School tours and extra-curricular activities**

Each year many parents are asked to provide additional money to cover the cost of school trips and tours. These are generally not optional, and where they are parents don't want their child missing out despite the financial pressure it places on them<sup>8</sup>.

96% of secondary and 99% primary school parents said they were asked to pay additional sums for school tours and trips. On average this was €151 for secondary

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<sup>8</sup> Early this year in our cost of living survey we found that X parents said they had to cut back or go without school trips.



and €65 for primary school. This is a substantial additional cost, with one quarter (25%) of secondary school parents saying they have to spend over €300 on school tours and trips.

It is clear that some schools are being positive and not placing undue burdens on parents. However, there are many that are being less progressive, to the detriment of students, by introducing tours and trips that are unaffordable to some families, or introduce an additional cost that has to be covered by cutting back on another essential.

***'School trip this could cost up to €700 if they go to France or Italy. It's unfair only the rich kids get this opportunity.'* (Secondary school parent)**

***'Being able to afford the basic costs and pressure to afford the school tours.'* (Secondary school parent)**

***'I feel so guilty that I can't afford to send on all the trips the others appear to go on easily so I feel she's missing out.'* (Primary school parent)**

40% of secondary and 70% of primary school parents said they had to pay for extra-curricular activities within school. On average it was €87 for primary schools and €113 for secondary school parents. Many of these, particularly in primary school, take place during the school day so there's no option but to pay the amount. They are not always completely optional, or if they are parents worry about their children being excluded and missing out on opportunities if they do not get involved.

***'Fund school trips and extracurricular activities that support their learning.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'Our school puts on lots of extracurricular sports, music etc for the kids which is great, until you get the bill.'* (Primary school parent)**

***'Cut down on fees paid to schools and forcing extras on the children for example our school the children do tin whistle not every child wants to partake but its €40 a year for it.'* (Primary school parent)**



## Conclusion and Recommendations

Barnardos believes that no parent should face financial pressure and struggles in trying to meet what are essential costs for their children's education. By investing in our education system and tackling school costs, we can ensure that all children start off with the same resources, increasing their ability to reach their full potential. We know that the impact of a child's early experiences lasts a lifetime and school is an essential part of that experience.

We gave parents an opportunity to suggest changes they would want the government to prioritise in order to make costs more affordable for them. Our recommendations are based on what they told us.

### 1. Free schoolbooks

Extend the free schoolbooks scheme to all secondary schools.

### 2. Affordable uniforms

The Department of Education's Circular on affordable uniforms is not being enforced. The Department should mandate that all schools in Ireland introduce affordable uniform options and make sure they can demonstrate how they are adhering to the 2017 Departmental Circular on uniforms. The Department should place a cap on the amount schools can ask of parents for uniform costs, this should be set at an initial maximum of the back to school allowance, €160 for primary schools and €285 for secondary schools.

### 3. Back to School Footwear and Clothing Allowance

Increase the Allowance by €100, as it was in Budget 2022 and Budget 2023, on a permanent basis. Amend the threshold for qualifying for the Allowance to reflect increases to the minimum wage over the past few years.



#### **4. End voluntary contributions**

The Department of Education should appropriately fund schools, so that they do not require additional income from parents. Increase capitation rates by 10%. Establish a voluntary contribution code of practice which sets out: all schools must publish where the funds go; guaranteed voluntary contributions fees for school essentials such as lockers, journals and access to book rental scheme; follow up or reminders for the payment of voluntary contributions can never be sent through a child; lists of parents who have and have not paid voluntary contributions must be kept anonymised.

#### **5. Digital Costs**

The Department must investigate how many schools are mandating use of digital tools and set a cap of how much parents can be expected to spend on items at an affordable amount, no higher than €200. Where schools request purchase of items, low income parents should be able to apply for funding directly from a newly established Department fund to ensure children are not placed at a disadvantage.

# About Barnardos

As Ireland's leading children's charity, helping vulnerable children since the 1960s, Barnardos works with vulnerable children and families to provide practical, social and emotional support. Barnardos supports children and families all across Ireland who have been affected by traumatic life events such as abuse, poor parental mental health, neglect, separation, bereavement and addiction.

Our core purpose remains the same; 'to help the most vulnerable children in society achieve their full potential – regardless of their family circumstances, their gender, race or disability' – Because Childhood Lasts a Lifetime.



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