

The background of the entire page is a photograph of school supplies on a wooden desk. On the left, a black mesh pencil holder is filled with various colored pencils. In the center, a spiral-bound notebook lies flat. To the right, several colorful crayons are scattered. In the foreground, a small yellow eraser and a blue and white pencil sharpener are visible. The image is framed by dark blue and teal geometric shapes at the top and bottom, and a red shape on the bottom left.

EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE

*Parents' perspectives on supporting
children in financial hardship to
achieve their full potential.*



NPC

SUPPORTING PARENTS
SUPPORTING CHILDREN

NPC Vision

The National Parents Council want to see an Ireland where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential

NPC Mission

The National Parents Council exists to ensure that all parents are supported and empowered to become effective partners in their children's education. NPC will work to increase the capacity and capability of the education sector, to achieve true partnership and deliver better outcomes for all children and young people.

Values

NPC knows that when parents and schools work together, children do better. Therefore, NPC believes that in order to achieve this parents must feel:

Engaged: Parents must be actively engaged in the education of their children.

Supported: Parents' involvement in children's education must be supported by the attitudes, beliefs and practices of all members of the school and broader education community.

Partners: Parents must be viewed as partners in facilitating children's learning and be supported in this role by the school and broader education community.

Valued: Parents should be viewed as full partners in the decisions that affect their children and their family.

Welcomed: Parents should be welcome in the school, and their support and assistance sought as a valuable resource to support children's education in the school.

Connected: All communication and dialogue with parents must be regular, open, two-way and meaningful.

National Parents Council

Key Activities

SERVICE DELIVERY

NPC's services are developed to empower parents so that they can support their children in all aspects of education.

HELPLINE

The NPC helpline is a national confidential service for parents. The helpline staff listen and give information and support to parents to help them make the best possible decisions for and with their children.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The NPC Training and Development programme is a national programme of training, development and support for parents. The purpose is to empower parents to play an active part in their child's education at every level.

WEBSITE

The NPC's website www.npc.ie aims to provide parents with information regarding education at early years, primary and post primary levels.

ADVOCACY

NPC engages in awareness-raising activities and campaigning and lobbying at a national level on the objectives of its Strategic Plan.

REPRESENTING PARENTS

NPC represents the voice of parents through representation on external bodies and other mediums. NPC consults with parents and brings parents' views to bear on education policy.

BUILDING PARTICIPATION

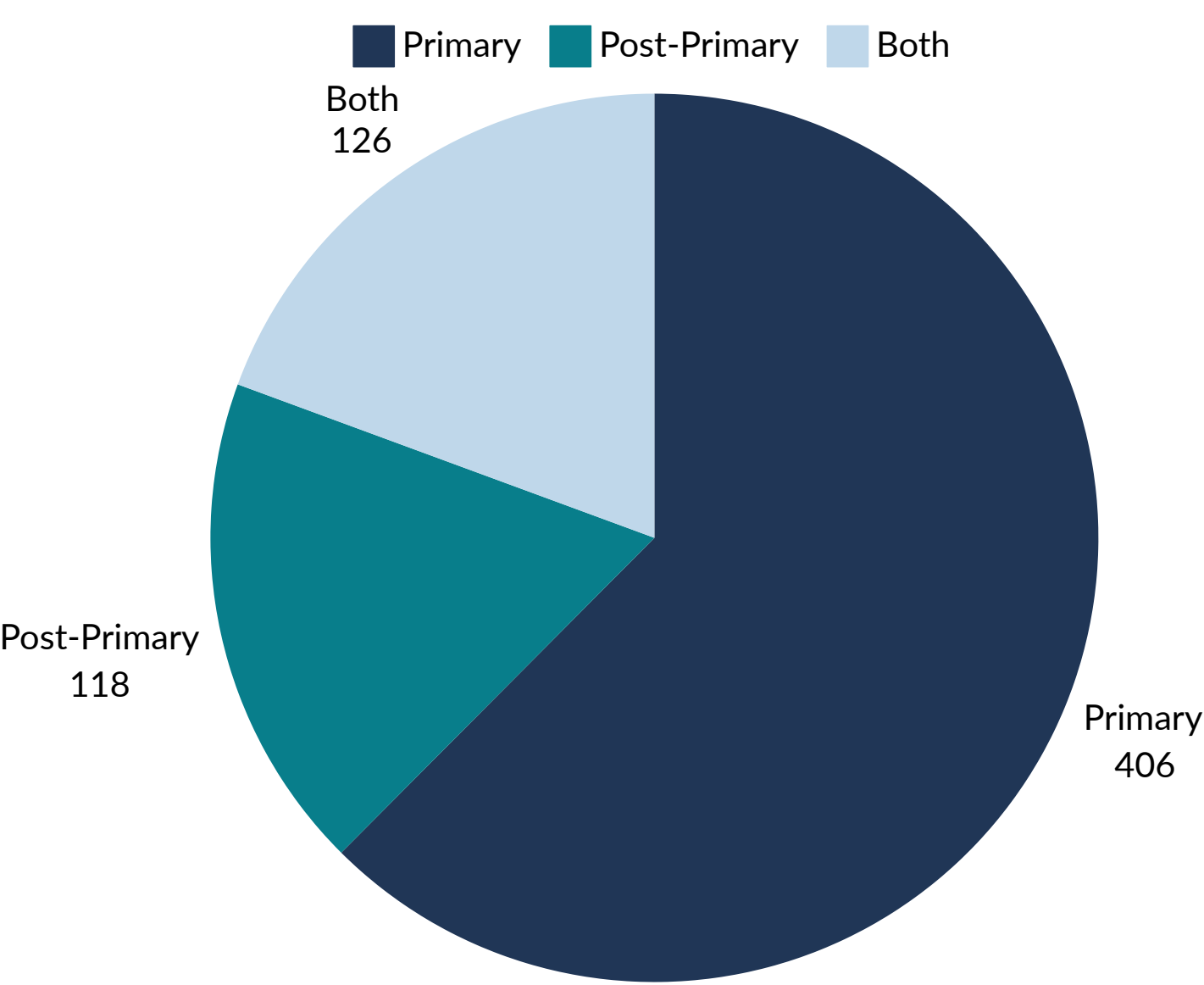
NPC builds participation strategies and activities to ensure parents and children are an integral part of the work of NPC.

Introduction

In September 2024, the National Parents Council published a survey aimed at getting parents' views on how schools can give children at risk of educational disadvantage an equal chance to achieve their potential. Through the survey, parents were invited to tell NPC about their child’s experience in school, and what they think is needed to overcome any barriers or challenges faced by their child and other children.

The survey was sent to all primary and post primary parents on the NPC mailing list who had consented to receiving survey emails and was live from 17/9/24 to 1/10/24. During this time, a total of 651 parents responded.

The majority (62%) of people who responded to this survey were parents of children in Primary School only, while 19% were parents of children in both Primary and Post Primary School. 18% of parents who responded to this survey had children in Post Primary School only.



(Figure 1)

My child is in:

This report summarises the results of the survey, and provides recommendations for tackling educational disadvantage into the future. A full transcript of the answers from open text box questions is available in Appendices 1-8, as outlined below:

Appendices

1: Q5. Please give examples of any financial struggles or other hardships that stop a child from getting the same chances as other children to do the best they can in their education

2: Q7. What does your child's school do well to support children from families with financial struggles and other hardships?

3: Q8. What additional support could your child's school offer to help children from families with financial struggles and other hardships?

4: Q9. How does your child's school help children attend school?

5: Q11. Why do you think that is?

6: Q12. What additional support could your child's school offer to help children attend school every day?

7: Q16. How could your child's school further help your child take part in activities that go on in their school?

8: Q25. What one thing do you suggest should be done to support children with social or financial challenges?

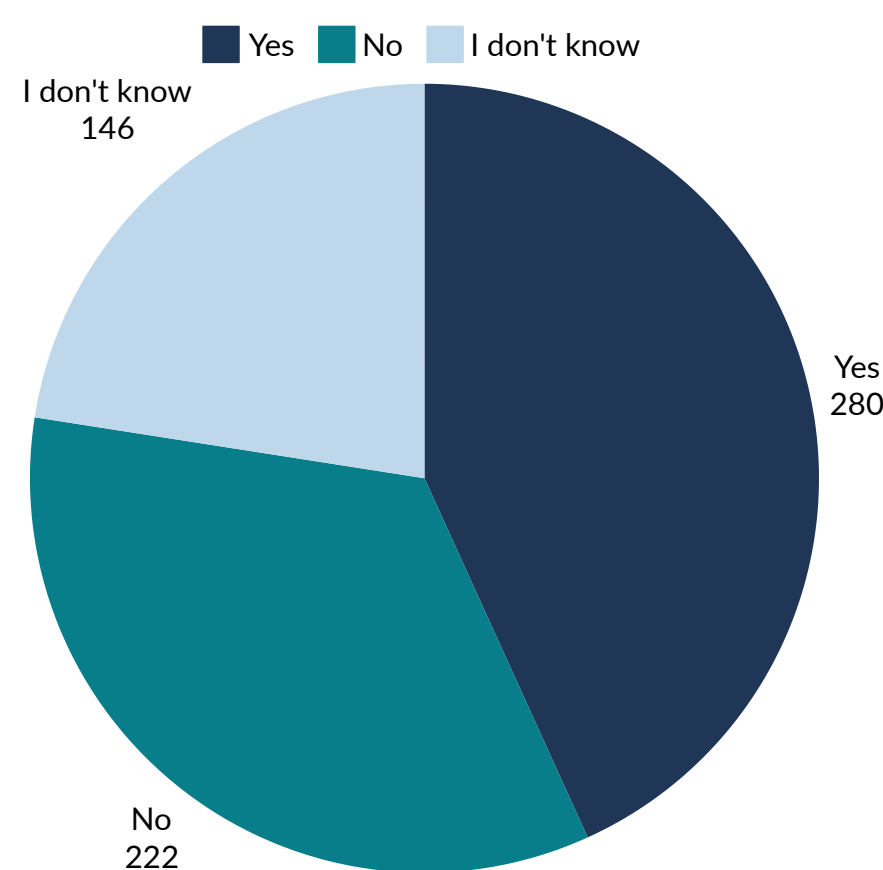
Executive Summary

The report examines the perspectives of parents regarding the challenges their children face in accessing education, particularly for those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. It is based on a survey conducted in September 2024 by the National Parents Council, with responses from 651 parents. The findings highlight significant financial barriers that affect children's ability to fully engage in both curricular and extracurricular activities. The report identifies key issues, including the costs of school supplies, uniforms, school trips, and extracurricular activities, and outlines the social and emotional impacts of financial struggles on children.

Parents expressed concern about the lack of support for families facing financial difficulties, with many being unaware of the available assistance at their child's school. The financial pressures associated with education—such as voluntary contributions, costs of uniforms, and school trips—were seen as major factors contributing to educational disadvantage. Parents also highlighted the need for better communication between schools and families regarding financial supports and programmes aimed at helping disadvantaged students.

Financial Struggles and Other Hardships

In order to assess parent’s level of awareness on the DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) status of their child’s school, they were first asked “Do you know if your child’s school is in DEIS?” A small majority of parents (57%) answered either “no” (34%) or “I don’t know” (23%), while the remaining 43% answered “yes”, indicating that there may not be enough information available and communicated to parents on the DEIS status of their child’s school.



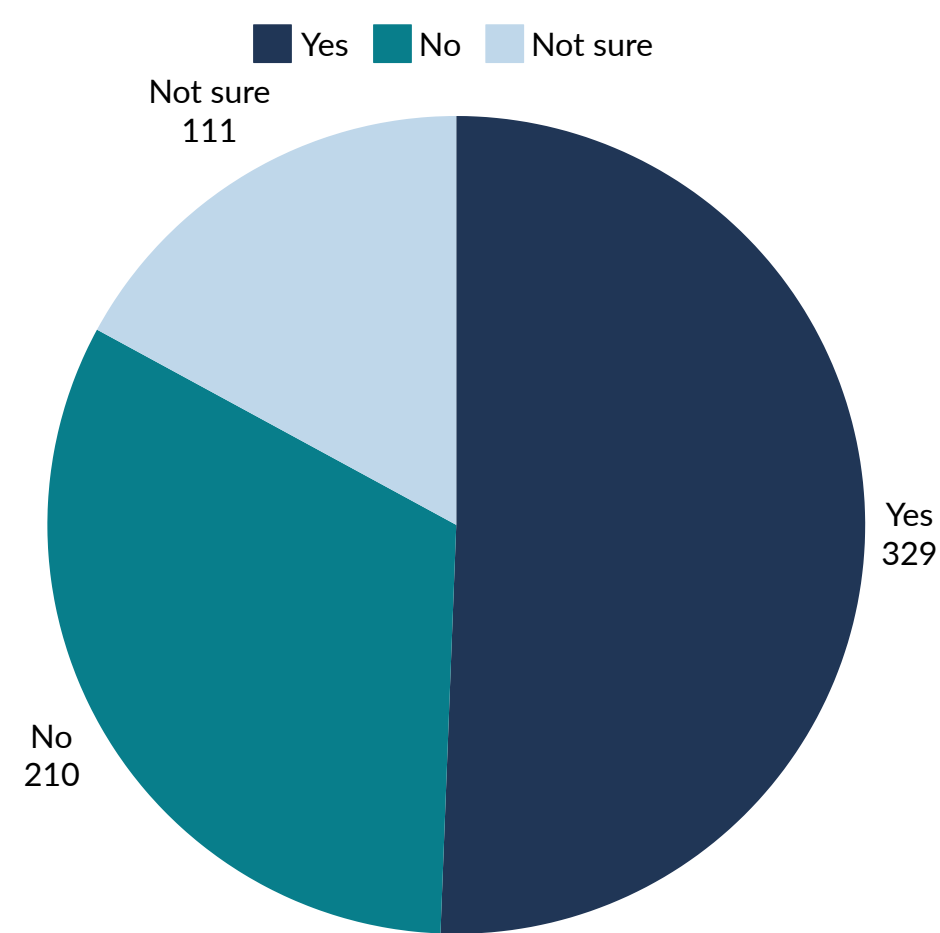
(Figure 2)

Do you know if your child’s school is in DEIS?

At the start of this survey, parents were presented with the following text:

“Throughout the survey, we use the term "financial struggles and other hardships". By this we mean that a family’s financial situation, and any other difficulties that they might be facing, can affect the opportunities that their children might have in life. For example, it may make it difficult for parents to pay for sports or other activities that the child wants to join.”

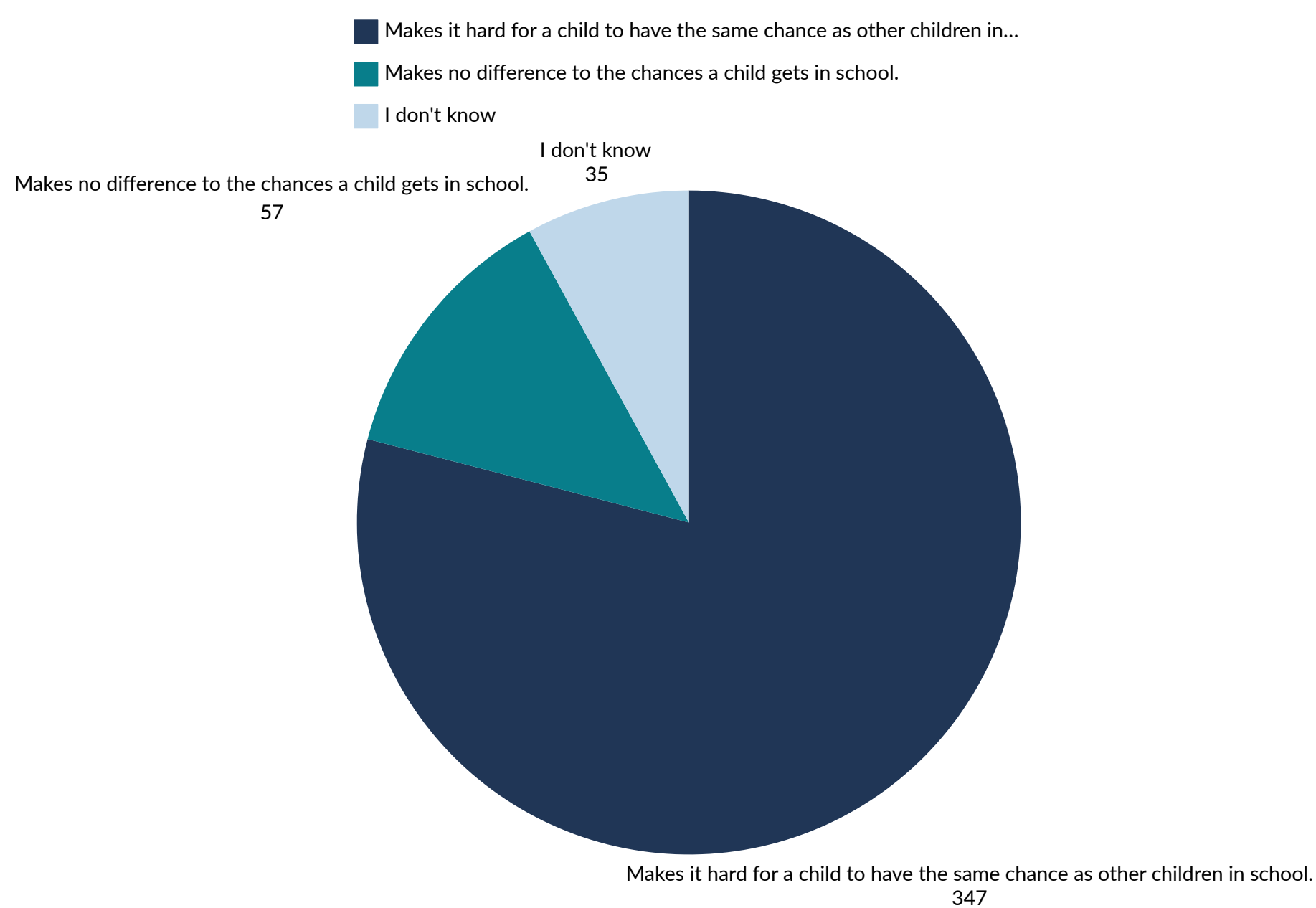
When asked if they feel they are a parent of a child growing up in a community with financial struggles and other hardships, 1-in-2 parents (50%) answered yes. A third of parents (32%) who responded did not feel that they are a parent of a child growing up in a community with financial struggles and other hardships, while 17% of parents were unsure.



(Figure 3)

I feel that I am a parent of a child growing up in a community with financial struggles and other hardships.

The majority (79%) of parents believe that growing up in a community with financial struggles and other hardships makes it hard for a child to have the same chance as other children in school, while 13% believe with financial struggles and other hardships in a community makes no difference to the chances a child gets in school, and 8% are unsure.



(Figure 4)
Where a child is growing up in a community with financial struggles and other hardships, I believe that this:

Parents were then given the opportunity to give examples of any financial struggles or other hardships that prevent a child from getting the same chances as other children to do the best they can in their education. A total of 330 parents left comments[1] on this question, and while there were a variety of examples given, common trends were:

Cost of Extracurricular Activities:

- The cost of extracurricular activities was frequently cited as a source of financial stress for families. Many parents noted that sending children to some, or all, of the extra-curricular activities that they might like to go to, such as sports, music lessons, or after-school clubs, is simply not a possibility for many families.

School Uniform, Policy and Supplies:

- Parents also highlighted the cost of uniforms and school supplies (books, stationery, school bags) as a struggle for many families, especially those experiencing financial hardships. Of particular note were crested, branded, or specific uniforms that can only be bought from specialist shops, often at considerable cost, or when schools have 2 official uniforms (a “formal” uniform and a PE tracksuit). Some parents also noted that some children may feel singled out or embarrassed as their parents may not be able to afford branded clothing/shoes or new pencil cases/bags etc.
- The payment of voluntary contributions was highlighted as an additional source of financial stress, with parents noting the pressure that comes with paying such a cost at the start of the school year.
- In addition to the costs of uniforms, stationary, voluntary contributions etc, many parents also noted that their school charges for photocopying etc per child, which was also identified as a financial pressure.

Cost of School Trips and Activities:

- Several parents noted that school trips and activities (e.g., swimming or music lessons) often require extra fees, leading some children to miss out on valuable experiences. For example, it was noted by a number of parents that swimming lessons are mandatory in their child's school and are part of the PE curriculum, but incur an additional cost. Parents also noted the additional, often high, cost of paying for buses to various activities, on top of the cost of the activity itself. These costs add up, especially for families with multiple children.

Nutrition and Basic Needs:

- Many responses highlighted a lack of proper nutrition (e.g., coming to school without breakfast) as a barrier to learning.

Educational and Psychological Assessments:

- Several families expressed difficulty in affording private educational or psychological assessments for children with additional needs (e.g., dyslexia or autism). Without these assessments, parents believe children are often left without appropriate support in school.

Healthcare and Therapy Access:

- Children with special needs are affected by long waiting lists for services such as speech and occupational therapy. Parents struggle to pay for private sessions, which delays the child's access to needed support. Parents also highlighted the cost involved in bringing children to such appointments away from school during the school/work day.

Parental Financial Struggles and Stress:

- Parents noted that children are often aware when parents are dealing with financial pressure. This can lead to feelings of anxiety and low self-esteem as well as social embarrassment, and disengagement from learning.

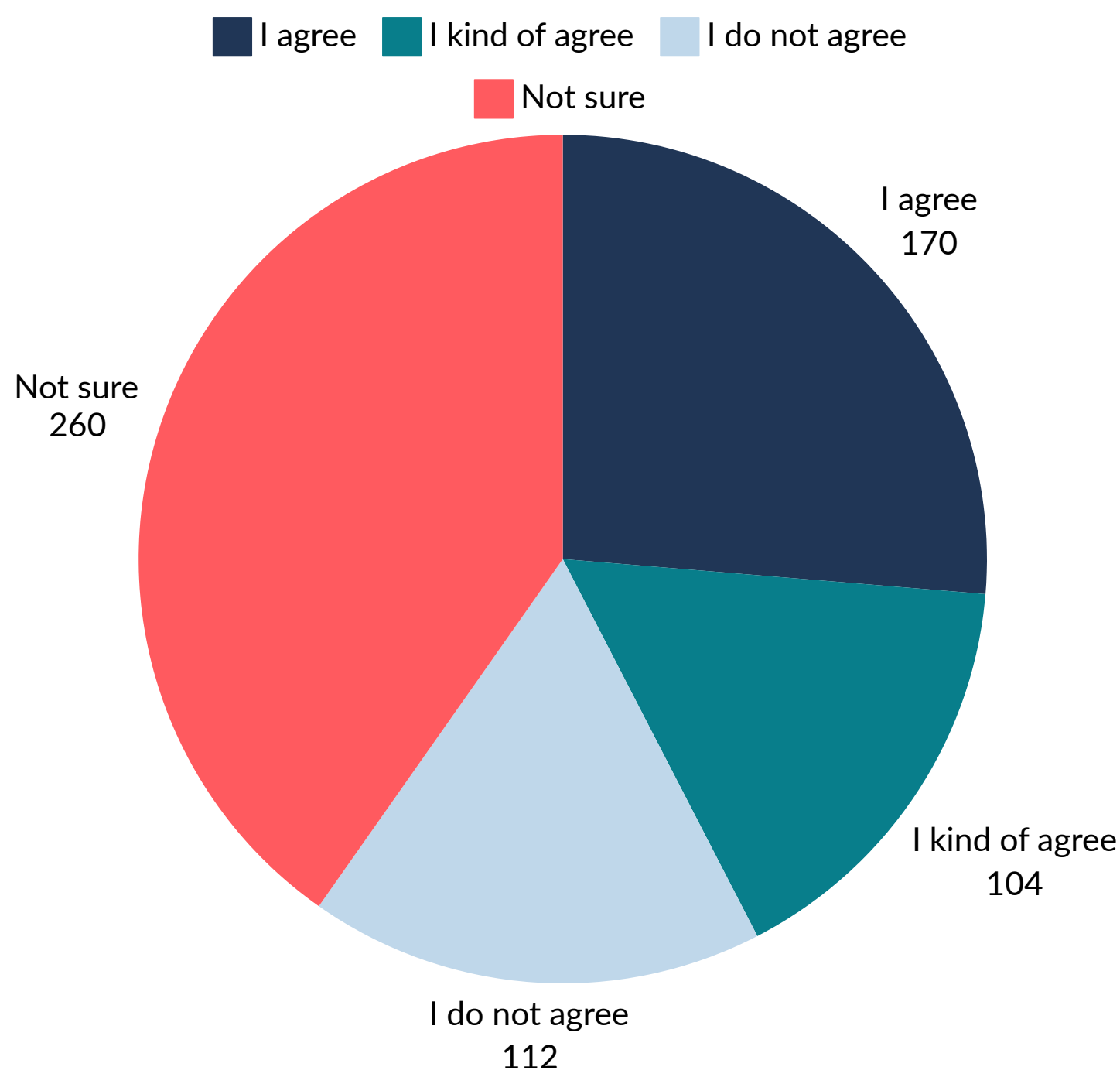
Lack of Infrastructure and Resources:

- Some parents also highlighted their concerns about the quality of education in schools affected by financial limitations, particularly in schools supporting children with diverse needs.
- One parent noted that rural areas often lack access to sports and extracurricular facilities, causing children in those regions to miss out on development opportunities that their urban counterparts have.

Technology Gaps:

- A few respondents stated that their children don't have access to technology (e.g., laptops, printers, or tablets) for homework or school projects. They view this as a significant disadvantage in an increasingly digital learning environment.

When asked if their child’s school provides support for children from a family with financial struggles and other hardships, 42% of parents either agreed (26%) or kind of agreed (16%), however, almost the same amount (40%) were unsure if this kind of support is offered in their child’s school. Although the smallest percentage, almost one-in-five parents (17%) say their child’s school does not provide support for children from a family with financial struggles and other hardships.



(Figure 5)
My child’s school provides support for children from a family with financial struggles and other hardships.

Parents were asked about the ways their child’s school supports families experiencing financial hardships, and, reinforcing the level of uncertainty shown in the previous question, many parents reported that they are unsure or do not know what their child’s school does to support families facing financial hardships.

Many respondents explicitly stated they don’t know, however, other parents noted that they are unsure because such information is not communicated clearly by the school.

Several parents reported that their child’s school offers support discreetly, or invites parents to contact the principal/deputy principal directly if they are experiencing financial difficulties, but this led to a lack of awareness among parents who hadn’t personally sought help.

It is also possible, that disclosing financial difficulties to their child’s school may be difficult for some parents, and therefore prohibitive. While only a very small number of parents in this survey report feeling too embarrassed to ask for financial help from their school, it was noted, and this experience is one which must be considered when establishing ways to support families facing financial hardships.

Many parents highlighted ways their child's school supports those experiencing financial hardships. Notably, the supports highlighted by parents are broadly similar to those which would help children and families experiencing the difficulties, as mentioned in the previous question. Supports parents noted included:

Meal Programmes:

- Free Breakfast and Lunch: Many respondents mentioned that schools provide free meals (breakfast and lunch).
- Hot Meals: Some schools offer hot meals, further helping to reduce the financial burden on families.
- A few schools go beyond regular meal programmes by offering weekly food, fruit or vegetable bags or supermarket vouchers at Christmas for families in need.

Uniform Assistance:

- Uniform Swaps: Many schools organise uniform swaps where parents donate old uniforms, meaning parents don't have to buy a new uniform once their child outgrows one. A number of schools hold sales of pre-loved uniforms as another way to assist families financially
- Generic Uniforms: Some schools have plain uniforms (sweatshirt and track suit, jumper/ t-shirt with a sew-on crest) which can be less expensive than specific crested uniform.

Flexible Payment Options:

- Payment Plans: Offering instalment payment plans for school trips, activities, and voluntary contributions is a frequent practice. This allows parents to spread out costs over time.

Subsidising or Waiving Costs:

- Some schools allow for the cost of activities (such as for swimming lessons, school tour etc), or the payment of voluntary contributions to be reduced or waived completely in cases of financial difficulty. Although a number of parents noted that the Parents Association in their child's schools fundraises and uses this money to subsidise the cost of trips, tours or activities, NPC believe that all children should be able to take part in all activities in the school day without cost.

Books and School Supplies:

- Free Books: Schools often participate in book schemes or rental programmes to provide free books and school supplies, easing the burden on families.
- Low-cost Stationery: In some cases, schools provide supplies at a reduced rate.

Discreet Communication and Support:

- Schools encourage parents to approach them if they are struggling financially. They often emphasise that help is provided in a discreet manner to avoid embarrassment for the children.
- Some parents whose children attend a DEIS school highlighted the benefit of the Home School Community Liason to communicate with families who might need help, ensuring support is available when required. Some parents also reported the provision of free summer camps, which can ease the financial burdens of out-of-term activities for children.
- One parent described having a family support fund funded by the parent association, which is used to help children participate in activities like school trips.

Parents were then given the opportunity to detail ways their child's school could support children from families with financial struggles and other hardships. Suggestions here were broadly similar to the ways parents reported their child's school offering support to such families, with suggestions centring on the cost of activities, meal programmes, uniforms, school supplies and flexible payment options:

More Free or Subsidised School Activities:

- Many respondents suggested offering free after-school activities such as homework clubs, sports, music lessons and after-school care. This would help children from financially struggling families participate in extracurricular activities that would otherwise be too expensive, as well as supporting parents who work full-time.
- Parents also advocated for subsidising costs for school trips and mandatory activities like swimming lessons, which some parents noted is part of their child's PE classes

Meals (Breakfast and Lunch):

- A significant number of responses highlighted the need for schools to provide breakfast and lunch programmes, as well as expanding the hot meals initiative, ensuring that children are well-fed and ready to learn across the school day.

Uniform and School Supply Assistance:

- Respondents frequently mentioned the high cost of uniforms and suggested that schools either offer generic, non-branded uniforms that can be purchased from general retailers (like Dunnes or Tesco) or implement uniform swap programmes where parents can exchange outgrown clothing.
- Some parents also suggested schools could provide or subsidise stationary and school supplies like tablets and sports gear, which can be costly for low-income families.

Flexible Payment Options:

- A consistent theme is the need for flexible payment plans for school costs, trips, and activities. Parents have suggested spreading out payments (voluntary contributions, costs for swimming, school tours etc) throughout the year to make them more manageable.

Improved Communication:

- Many parents have expressed that schools should better communicate the support available to families in need. Some families might be unaware of subsidies or assistance programmes, and clearer communication would help ensure that more parents take advantage of these opportunities.
- Parents also noted the need for improved notice of upcoming costs, as having money (especially cash) available at short notice can be a struggle for many families, particularly those with multiple school-going children. One parent stated:

“Last year between swimming lessons and school tours for 3 children in 24 hours I was asked for over €200 from the school. For lots of families that would have been the choice between having food in the presses.or not for a week”

Elimination or Reduction of Voluntary Contributions:

- A number of parents called for the abolition of voluntary contributions, with many parents finding these payments burdensome, especially for those already under financial stress.

Less common responses included:

Subsidised or Free Assessments and Therapy:

- Some parents suggested that schools could offer grants or subsidies for assessments (e.g., dyslexia evaluations) or access to therapy (speech, art, or play therapy), which are often expensive but essential for children with additional needs.

Personalised Financial Assistance:

- A few parents suggested creating a discreet hardship fund or individualised financial assistance plans based on specific family needs, ensuring children in financial hardship receive adequate support without feeling singled out.

Food Banks and Seasonal Aid:

- Some respondents suggested that schools could partner with food banks or provide supermarket vouchers, especially during difficult periods like the start of the school year or Christmas, to help families struggling with basic needs.

Attendance

Parents were asked about the ways in which their child’s school helps their child attend school every day. Some of the ways they highlighted were:

Positive reinforcement:

- Such as awards, certificates, and competitions, to encourage regular attendance.

Communication and follow-ups:

- Respondents have highlighted that schools have kept track of absences and communicated with parents, often through apps or direct messages, when a child is absent.

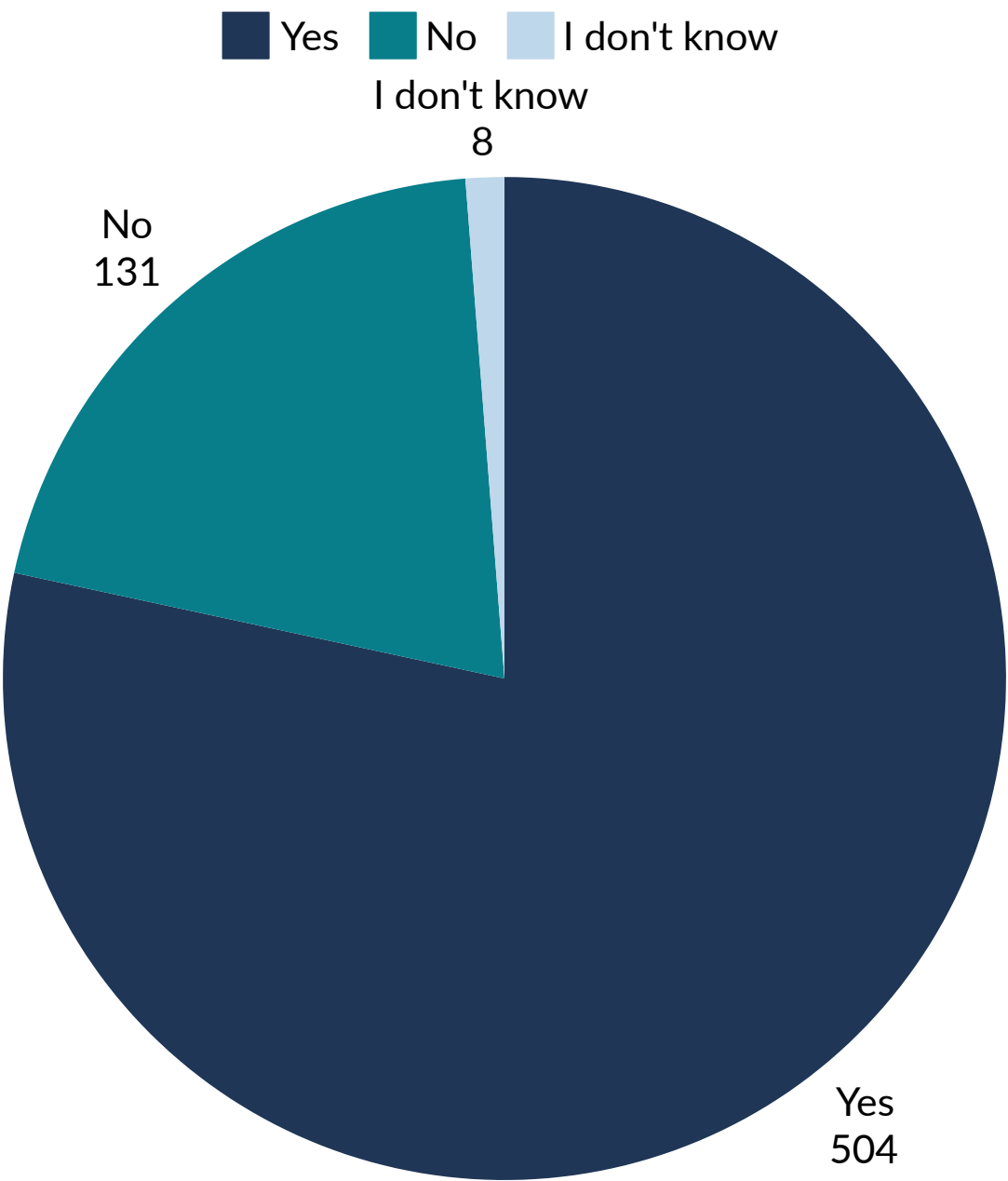
Home School Community Liaison support:

- Several respondents noted the presence of home-school community liaison officers, who have played a role in bridging the gap between families and schools, especially in supporting attendance.

Transport provision:

- Several parents highlighted the helpfulness of their child’s school bus- particularly in rural areas, or for working parents.

When asked if their child wants to go to school every day, the majority (78%) of parents reported that their child wants to go to school every day, however, a sizeable minority (20%) said their child does not.



(Figure 6)
Does your child want to go to school everyday?

When asked "Why do you think that is?", parents noted a variety of reasons reflecting a broad spectrum of experiences, from children thriving in positive, well-supported environments to those struggling with emotional, academic, or social challenges.

Positive Factors:

Friendship and Socialising:

- A significant number of responses highlighted that children enjoy going to school because they get to see and interact with their friends. The social aspect of school seems to play a crucial role in maintaining attendance and interest.

Teacher Influence:

- Many respondents mentioned the importance of good teachers. Children who like their teachers and feel supported by them tend to be more engaged and happy to attend school.

Positive School Environment:

- Several parents noted that their children enjoy school because of its welcoming atmosphere, fun activities, and friendly staff. Schools that create a nurturing environment appear to foster more positive attitudes towards learning.

Routine and Structure:

- A recurring theme is that children often go to school because it is part of their routine and they understand that it is necessary. Parents reinforce this by creating structured environments at home that support regular attendance.

Stage Setting:

- Many parents noted that they place value on education, and speak positively about it in their home. They also noted that they communicate clear expectations for their children to attend school.

Academic Enjoyment:

- Some parents reported that their children love learning and are naturally inquisitive. For these students, the appeal of school lies in the subjects, their curiosity, and the opportunities to learn new things.

Negative Factors:

Anxiety and Overwhelm:

- Parents have reported several instances where children find school overwhelming, particularly those with conditions such as anxiety, autism, or sensory processing issues. These children may experience difficulties with the environment, peer pressure, or workload.

Disengagement and Boredom:

- Some parents reported that their children find school boring or irrelevant, particularly due to an overloaded curriculum, lack of support, or uninspiring teaching methods, as well as a lack of challenging material for particularly able or gifted children. These students may still attend but are less enthusiastic about learning.

Bullying and Peer Pressure:

- A few parents highlighted negative school experiences due to bullying or peer pressure, causing reluctance to attend or a sense of dread about going to school.

Teacher and School Leadership Criticism:

- A small number of parents expressed dissatisfaction with school leadership, citing negative behaviours such as shouting or unfair treatment by Principals and teachers, which contributes to a poor school atmosphere.

Parents were then asked for suggestions on how their child's school could support children to attend school every day. Again, suggestions here were broadly similar to the ways parents reported their child's school supports children to attend every day:

Breakfast Clubs and Meals:

- Many respondents suggested the introduction of breakfast clubs, hot meals, or food programmes to support children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

More Extracurricular Activities:

- There was a strong desire for more after-school clubs, sports, and activities. Parents stated that these programmes could help make school more engaging and fun, encouraging attendance through enjoyment rather than obligation.

Mental Health Support:

- Many parents called for greater mental health resources, including counsellors, psychologists, and specific training for teachers to help children manage anxiety or other emotional challenges that affect school attendance.

Increased Special Needs Support:

- Many parents highlighted the need for more Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) and personalised support for neurodivergent children, and noted that children with additional needs often face challenges that aren't adequately addressed in the current system.

Reduced Homework:

- A common suggestion was the reduction or elimination of homework, particularly at the primary level. Parents reported feeling that children are already spending long days at school and need time for play and relaxation after school hours.

Transport Assistance:

- A number of parents raised the need for improved school transport options, especially for children from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds. Lack of transportation has been mentioned as a barrier to regular attendance.

Tackling Bullying and School Environment:

- Some parents mentioned that bullying or a harsh school atmosphere (including strict or unfair treatment from principals and teachers) has impacted children's willingness to attend. They called for more proactive anti-bullying measures and a more nurturing environment.

Financial Support:

- There have been suggestions for financial assistance, ranging from covering costs for iPads, uniforms, and extracurricular activities, to offering transportation support or even Leap Cards for public transport.

Learning Flexibility:

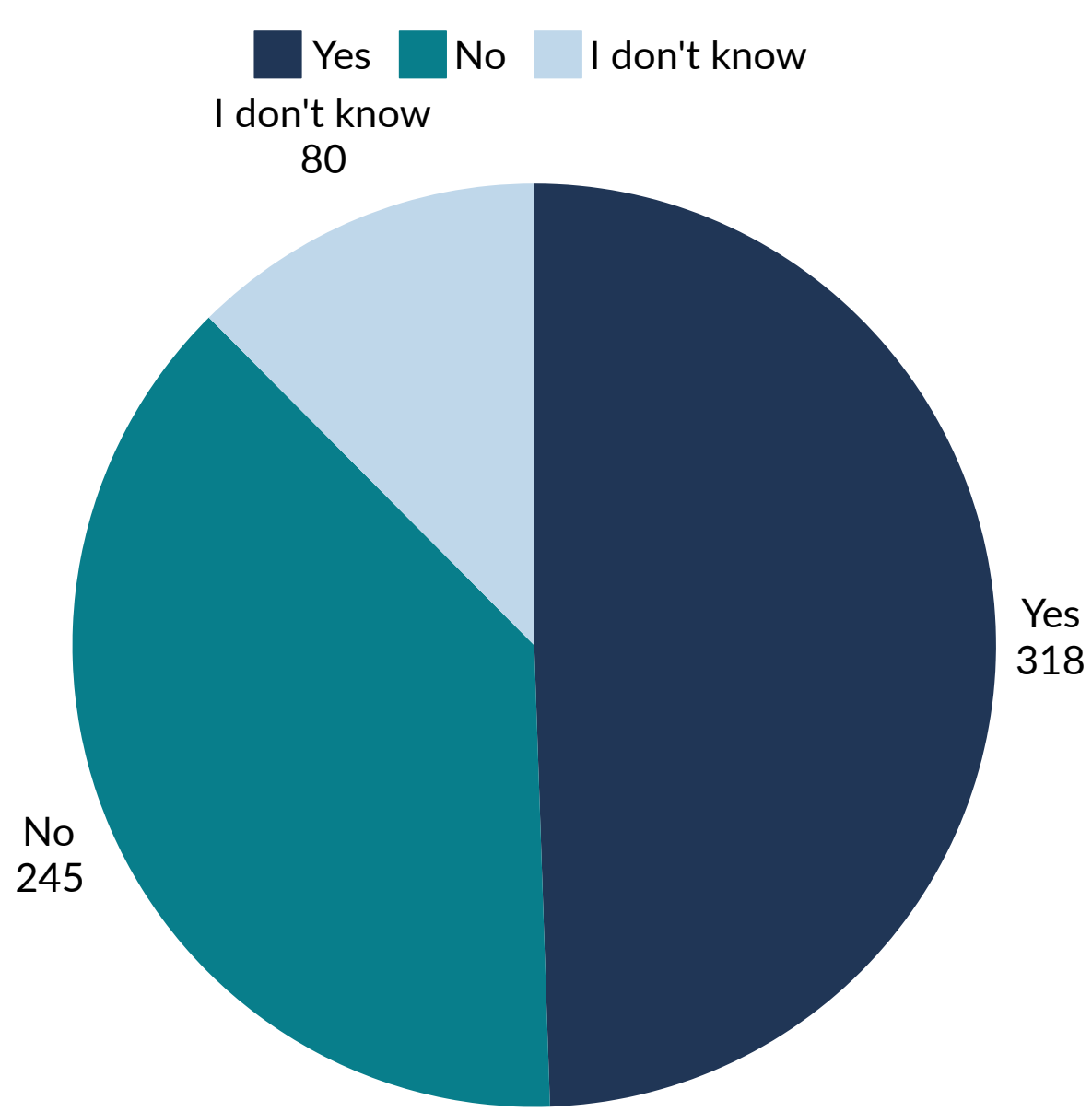
- A few parents have recommended a more flexible and individualised learning environment, including options like "movement breaks," life skills lessons, and alternative teaching methods for children who struggle with traditional academic structures

Access to Activities

Parents were asked 3 questions relating to their child’s access to curricular and extra-curricular activities, and trips and tours, and the cost involved.

Curricular Activities

When asked “My child has the opportunity to take part in any curricular activity (during the school day) that they would like to, without a financial cost” a significant portion of parents (49%) answered “yes”, indicating that their children can participate in curricular activities during the school day without financial burden. However, a noteworthy 38% answered “no”, indicating that their children do not have this opportunity, which suggests there may be barriers or limitations for some families. The relatively low percentage of those who were unsure (12%) indicates that most parents have a clear understanding of their children's access to these activities.

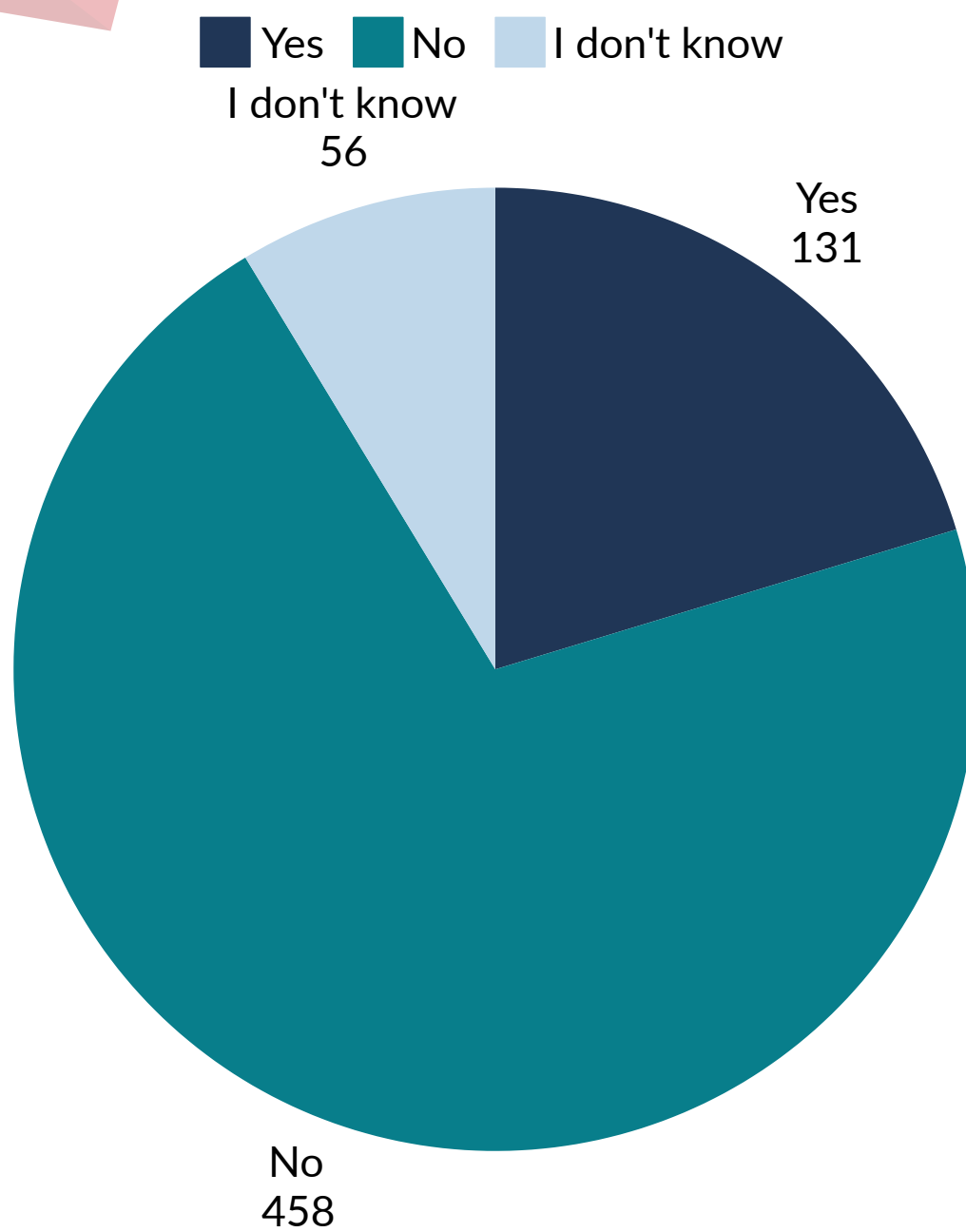


(Figure 7)

My child has the opportunity to take part in any curricular activity (during school day) that they would like to, without a financial cost.

Tours and Trips

Parents were asked “My child has the opportunity to take part in tours and trips during the school day that they would like to, without a financial cost” Similar to the extra-curricular activities, only 20% of parents reported that their children can participate in school tours and trips without incurring additional costs. The majority (71%) indicated that participating in these experiences incurs a cost, which could limit children's exposure to educational opportunities outside the classroom, as well as limiting their social and emotional development.

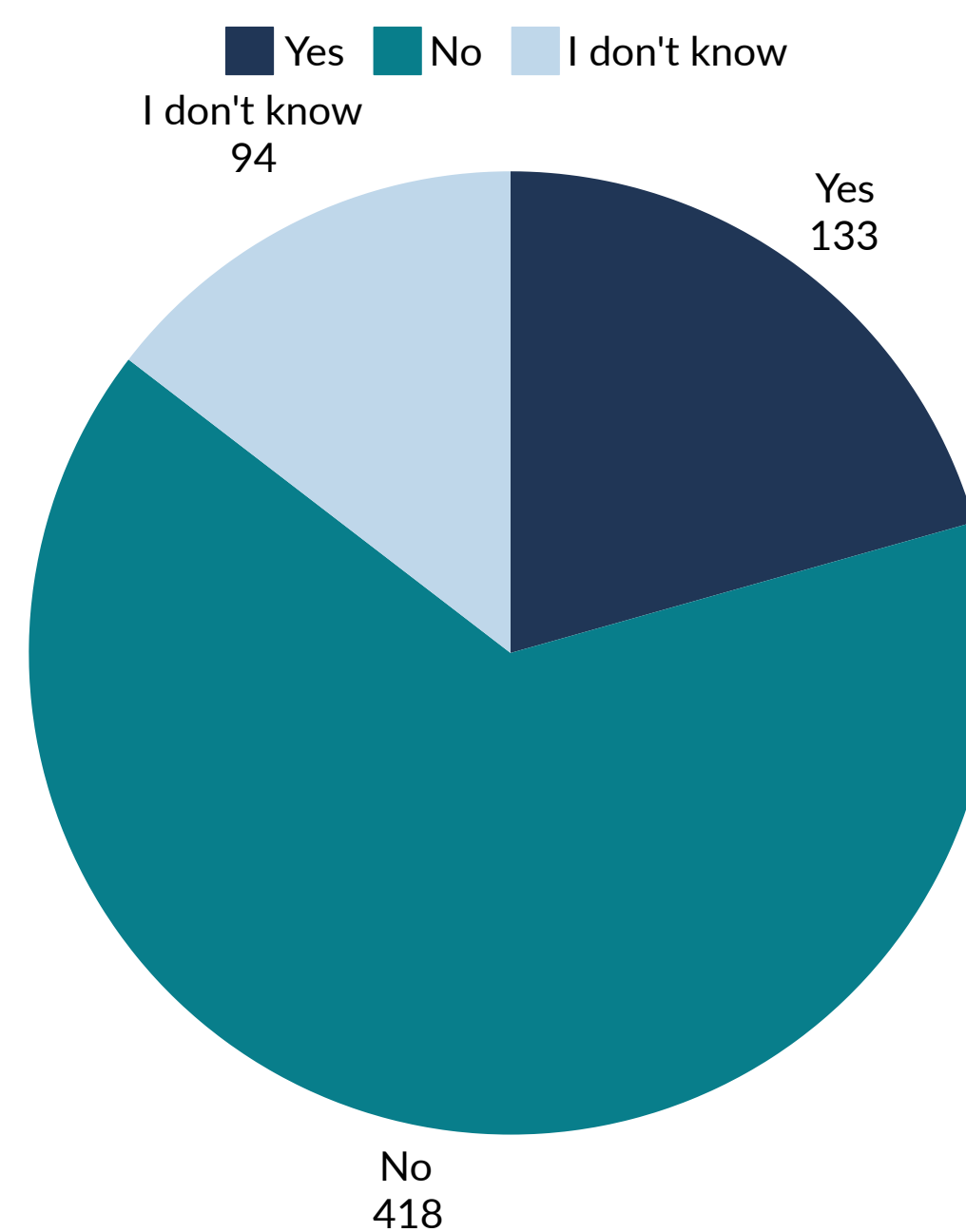


(Figure 8)

My child has the opportunity to take part in tours and trips during the school day that they would like to, without a financial cost.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Parents were then asked “My child has the opportunity to take part in any extra-curricular activity (outside of the school day) that they would like to, without a financial cost”. The results were less favourable for extra-curricular activities, with only 21% of parents reporting that their children can participate for free. The majority (65%) feel their children face financial barriers to engaging in these activities. This highlights a gap in access to after-school activities, which could impact children's development and social opportunities.



(Figure 9)

My child has the opportunity to take part in any extra-curricular activity (outside of the school day) that they would like to, without a financial cost.

Overall, the findings indicate that access to extra-curricular activities, trips and tours are more likely to come at a financial cost, suggesting that many children may be missing out on important experiences due to financial limitations.

Parents were asked for suggestions on how their child's school could further help their child to take part in activities that go on in their school. Suggestions included:

Reducing or eliminating costs:

- Many parents highlighted the financial burden of school tours, extracurricular activities, and transport. Suggestions included:
 - Offering more free activities.
 - Providing subsidies or payment plans.
 - Seeking government funding to cover these costs.
 - Fundraising to support school trips and activities.

Providing a wider range of activities:

- Parents expressed a desire for more non-sporting activities, such as art, music, drama, and chess, to accommodate children who aren't interested in or excel at sports.

Improving communication:

- Several parents suggested better communication about available activities and their costs, including advance notice and clarity about optional expenses. Some proposed involving parents in the decision-making process regarding which activities are offered

Inclusivity:

- Parents emphasised the need for inclusivity, ensuring that all children, regardless of financial means or ability, have access to school activities. This includes having a sliding scale for payments and more support for neurodivergent or disabled students.

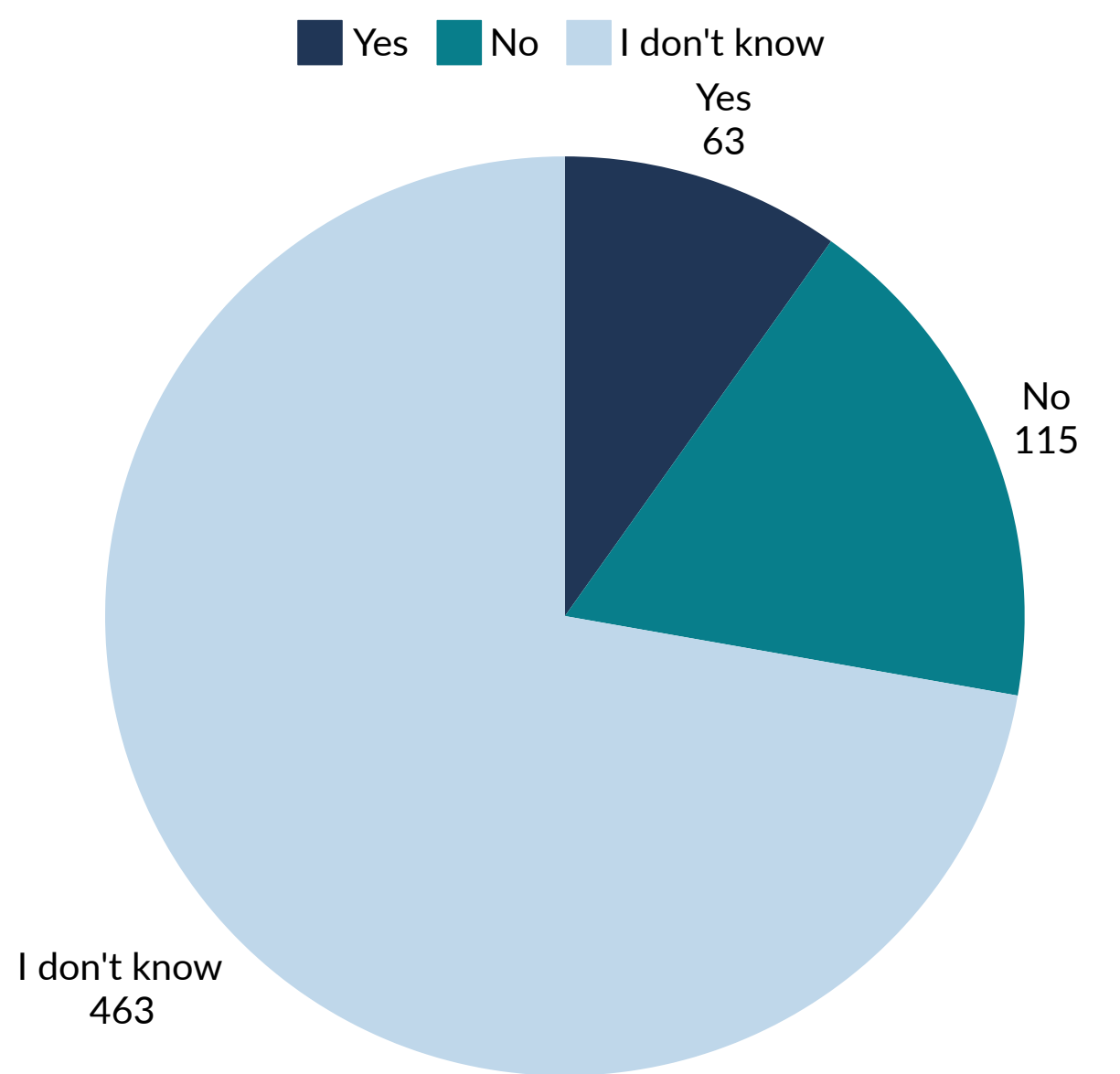
Transportation:

- Suggestions were made for schools to provide transport for after-school activities, rather than this cost being covered by parents in addition to the cost of the activity.

School Completion Programme

The School Completion Programme (SCP) is a programme to help children and young people who are at risk of leaving school early. It also supports children and young people who are not going to school now, even though they are of school age.

When asked if they know if there is a SCP at their child's school, less than 10% (63 parents) answered yes, 18% of parents responded no, while 72% have indicated they don't know.

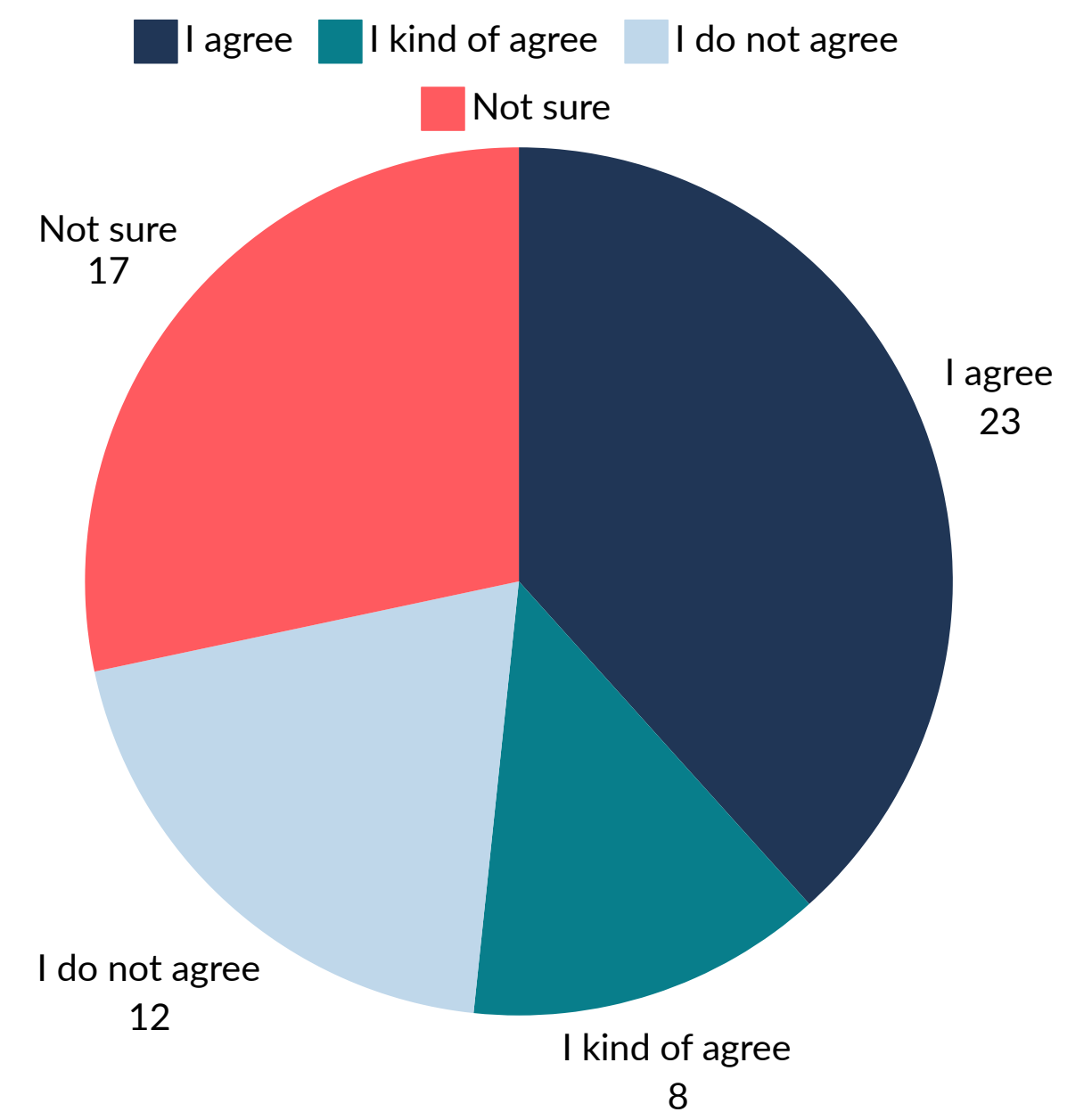


(Figure 10)
Do you know if there is a SCP at your child's school?

Parents who responded “Yes” (63) were then invited to answer the following questions:

My child gets good support from the School Completion Programme Staff

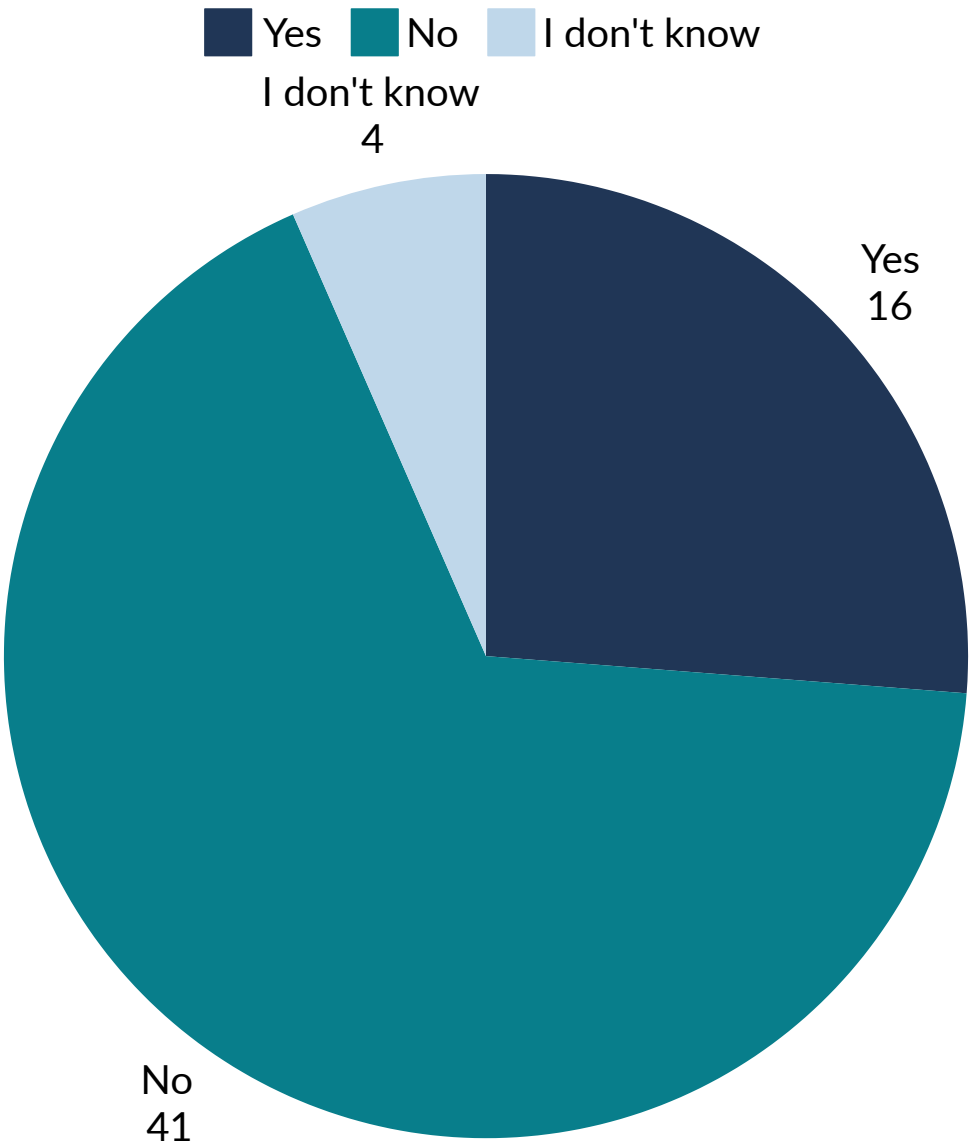
Parents reported varying levels of support from the SCP staff; a total of 49% either agreed (38%), or kind of agreed (10%), that their child receives good support, while 20% disagreed



(Figure 11)
My child gets good support from the School Completion Programme Staff.

Someone from the School Completion Programme has met me (or another parent/guardian) and my child.

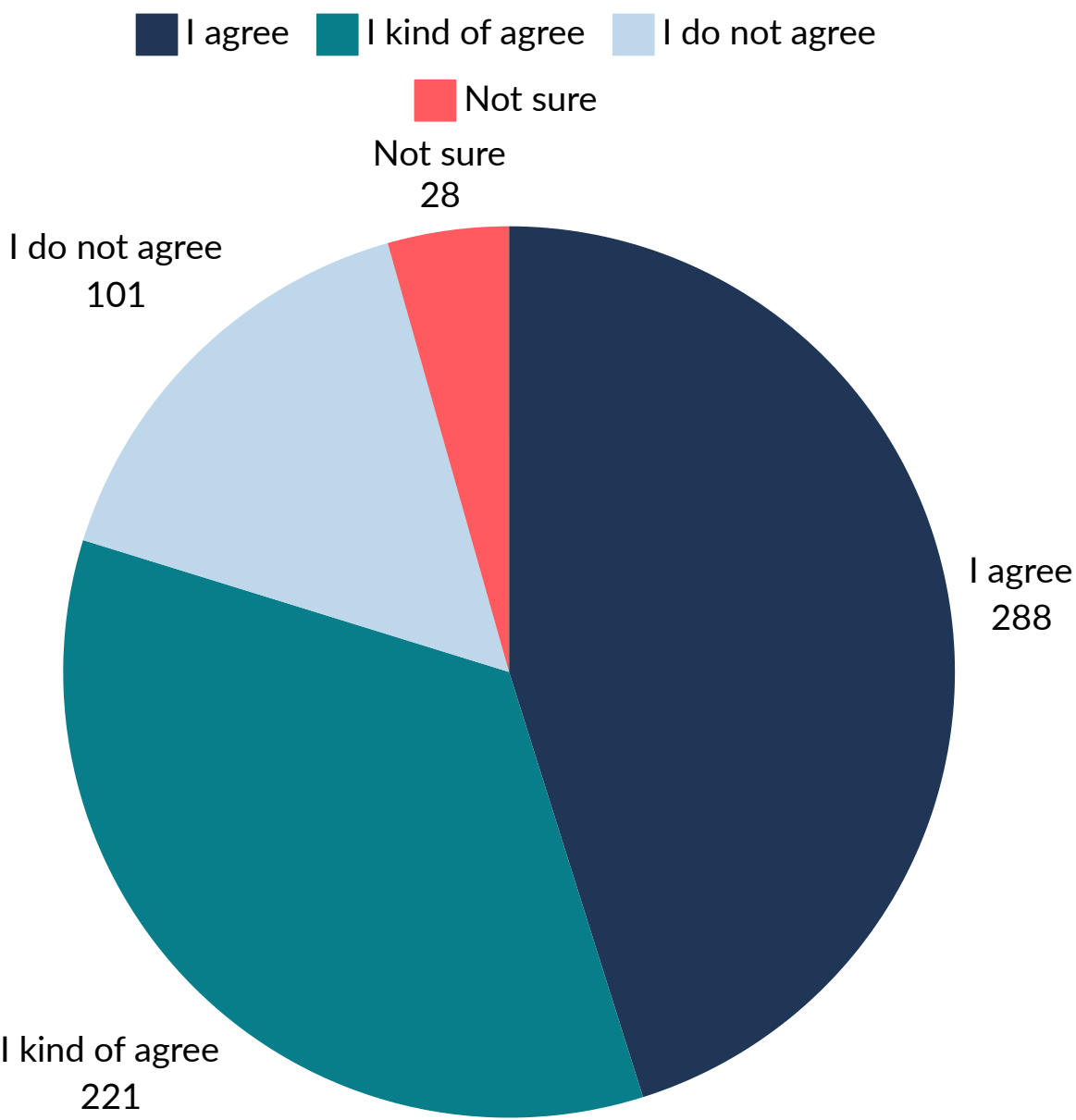
The majority (67%) of these parents said that no one from the School Completion Programme has met them or their child, while about a quarter (26%) of parents stated that someone from the SCP has met with them or their child.



(Figure 12)

Someone from the School Completion Programme has met me (or another parent/guardian) and my child.

All parents were then asked if their child’s school is good at talking to them about how their child is getting on. The majority (79%) of parents who responded to this survey either agreed (45%) or kind of agreed (34%) that their child’s school is good at talking to them about how their child is getting on. 16% of parents reported that their child’s school is not good at talking to them about how their child is getting on, while 5% were unsure.

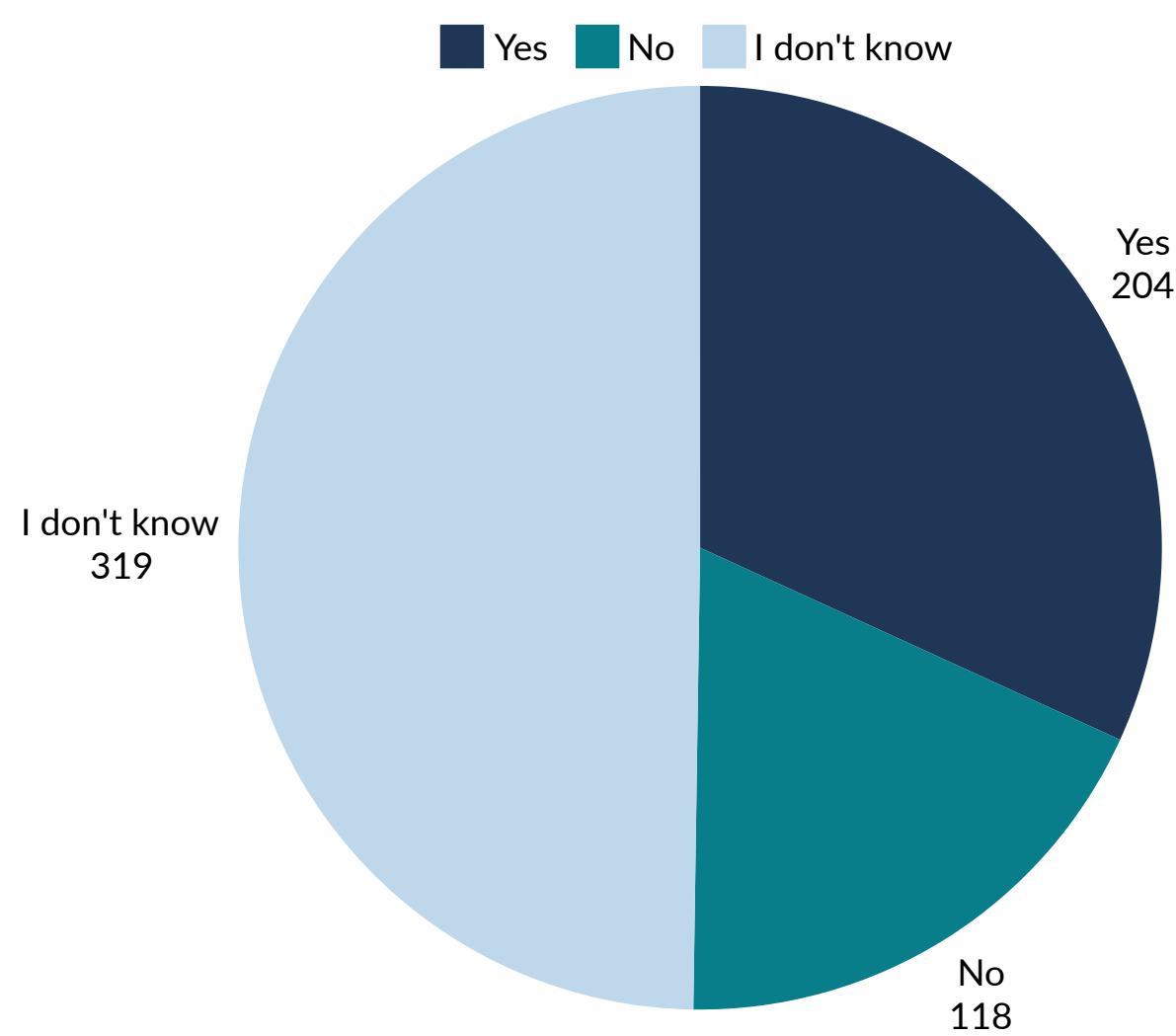


(Figure 13)

My child’s school is good at talking with me about how my child is getting on in school.

Home School Community Liaison

When asked if they knew if there was a Home School Community Liaison in their child’s school, half (50%) of parents reported that they do not know, while 32% said yes, and 18% said no.



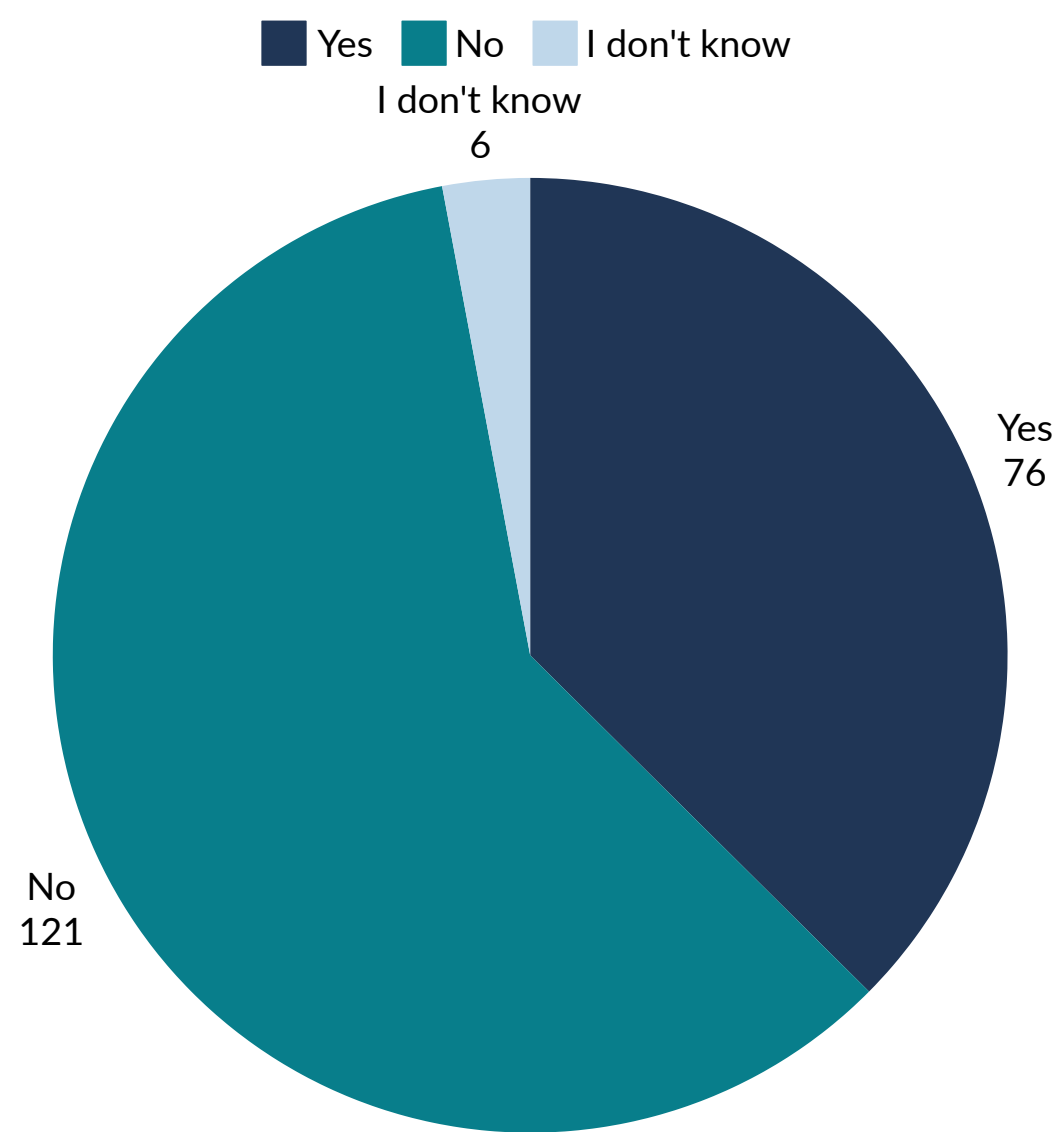
(Figure 14)

Do you know if there is a Home School Community Liaison teacher in your child's school ?

Parents who responded “Yes” (204) were then invited to answer the following questions:

I have gone to classes/events run by the HSCL coordinator.

The majority (60%) of them reported that they have not, while a sizeable minority of 37% have attended such classes or events. The remaining 3% were unsure.

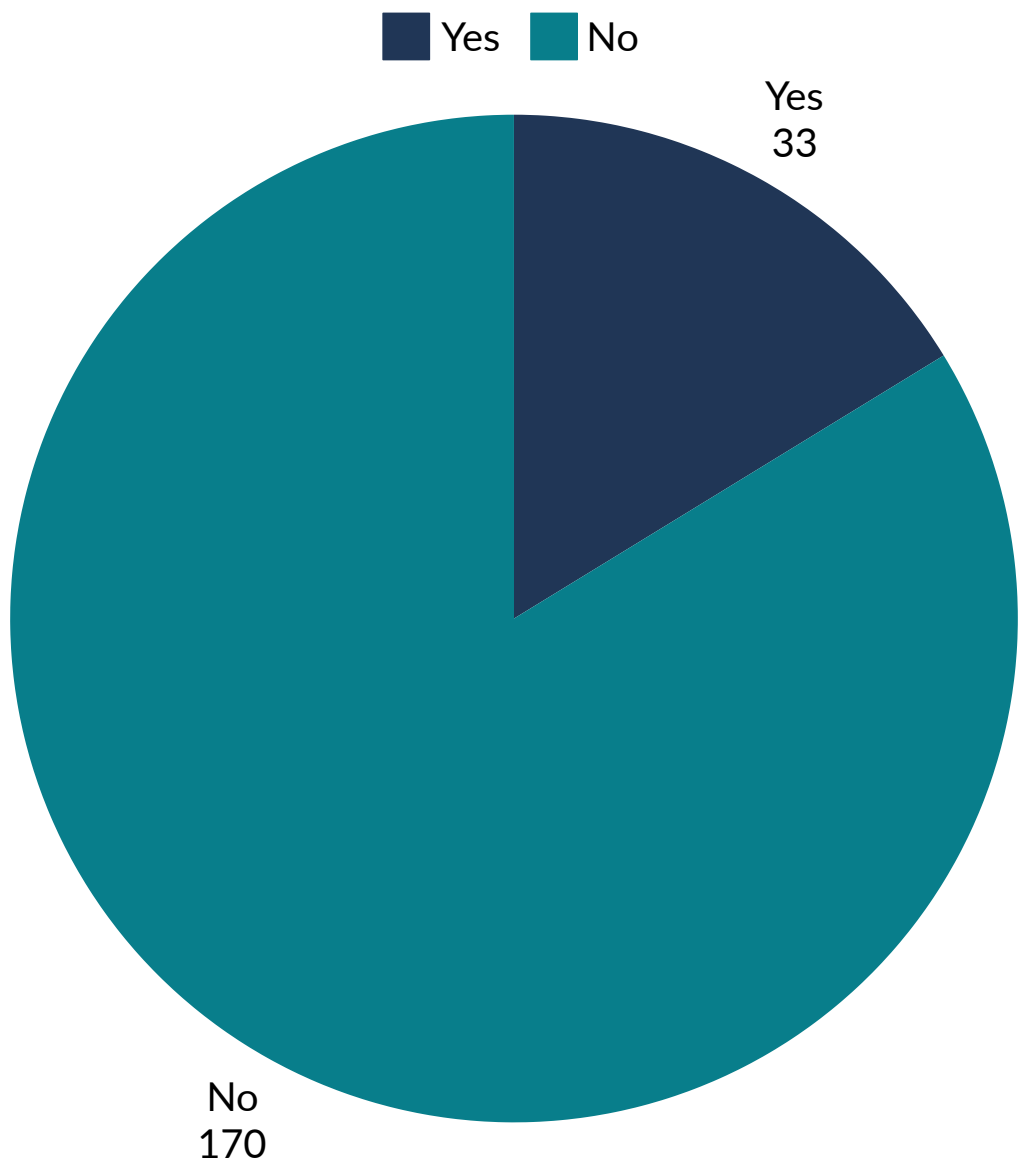


(Figure 15)

I have gone to classes/events run by the HSCL coordinator

The HSCL coordinator has visited my home.

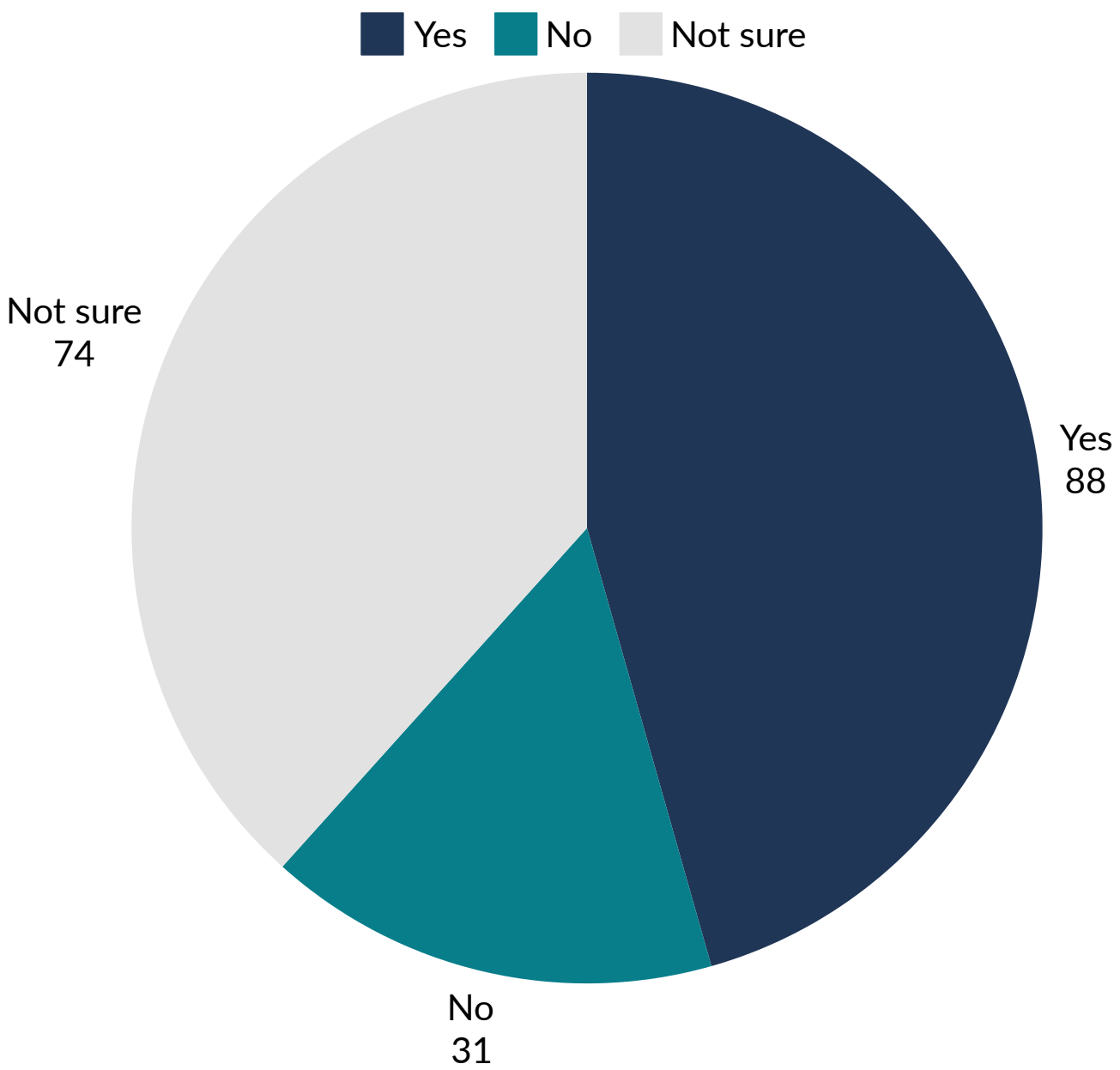
The majority (84%) reported that the HSCL has not visited their home, while 16% said they have.



(Figure 16)
The HSCL coordinator has visited my home

I have found the support of the HSCL coordinator helpful.

A broadly similar number of parents reported that the HSCL has been helpful (45%) or that they were unsure if the HSCL had been helpful (38%). Only 16% of parents reported that the support of the HSCL has not been helpful



(Figure 17)
I found the support of the HSCL coordinator helpful

One suggestion to support children with social or financial challenges

Parents were invited to answer the following question: “What one thing do you suggest should be done to support children with social or financial difficulties?”. A summary of the most common suggestions are:

Reducing financial burdens:

- Making school truly free by covering costs like insurance, uniforms, and extracurricular activities.
- Offering free or subsidised swimming lessons, school trips, and school supplies like laptops, stationery, and books.
- Spreading out payments for school-related costs throughout the year and offering payment plans to ease the financial strain on families.

Providing additional support:

- Breakfast clubs, after-school clubs and activities, and free meals were frequently mentioned as essential services to help children.
- Increasing the availability of mental health support services such as counselling, and better access to psychologists, speech and language therapists (SLTs), and occupational therapists (OTs).

Promoting inclusivity and belonging:

- Ensuring children from low-income families don't feel left out, with efforts to make school tours and activities accessible to all.
- Avoiding actions that make children feel singled out or different due to financial difficulties, such as creating more inclusive uniform policies and discreetly offering financial help.
- Encouraging participation in school clubs, sports, or other activities, and organising out-of-school activities to give children enriching experiences regardless of their financial situation.

Supporting parents:

- Improving communication between schools and parents to ensure families are aware of available financial and social supports.
- Offering educational programmes for parents to assist with budgeting and understanding how to better support their children's school involvement.

These suggestions reflect a strong focus on reducing costs, improving communication, and fostering an inclusive environment where no child feels disadvantaged due to their financial situation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this report sheds light on the critical financial and social challenges that affect children's access to education, especially for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The survey findings underscore that financial constraints, including the costs of uniforms, school supplies, extracurricular activities, and school trips, pose significant barriers to full participation and academic success. Moreover, the report highlights that financial struggles often extend beyond school costs, impacting children's nutrition, mental health, and access to necessary assessments and support services.

Appendix 1- Open questions

Q5. Please give examples of any financial struggles or other hardships that stop a child from getting the same chances as other children to do the best they can in their education

1. No spare Money in the Household
2. Children with additional needs
3. If they have additional needs and the parents have to pay for ot/ physio/ speech/ social groups then they struggle with basics at home
4. Extra curricular activities or after school activities are quite expensive so children miss out on taking part as parents struggle to find the extra money
5. Extra circular activity
6. Not so much in education but when it comes to clubs and extra curricular activities going on after school but within the school environment.
7. After school clubs , material items , argumentive home , emotional well-being unable to flourish
8. Extra curricular activities are not an option
9. Paying for school uniforms & tracksuits. Paying for printing, photocopying services etc
10. Cost of out of school activities
11. When special need is present, you have to purchase assistive tech until approvals get passed
12. Children are unable to participate fully in activities, go to school without breakfast or lunch, come to school with a negative opinion based on what they are told at home. Unable to go on school trips. Feeling like they can't ask for money at home as they won't get it.
13. You can see the deprivation. Kids are pale, smaller & do not get to participate in the same range of extra curricular activities f
14. It's the attitude and the view of the teachers towards the children, specifically boys. There's an unfair expectation of behaviour which thus gets in the way of how boys are supported and nurtured in the school environment. Specifically those from a disadvantaged background who have additional needs.
15. Access to events, extra curricular activities,
16. Not being able to afford extra cirrular to broaden their scope, not being able to afford special pe classes that are chargeable, transport to school, hand me downs un uniforms and books
17. nutrition, support, travel costs
18. I spent €350 on a uniform and €250 on a tablet for my daughter starting secondary school. Her friend has a 2nd hand uniform and has to carry a heavy bag of books to and from school every day.
19. Family breakdown challenges, not qualifying for supports but yet not having enough finance available to meet reasonable wants/needs of children
20. Limited resources bigger class numbers
21. Not being able to afford after school activities, comparing personal items like shoes, bags or even what's in the lunch box

22. If parents struggle with alcohol and drug misuse, the seldom prioritise their children's needs
Parents living in Direct provision centres who have young children and are not eligible to work , struggle to maintain their children's needs
23. Not having breakfast, proper fuel for the day leading to tantrums
24. Access to after school clubs & study as these are not free. Decent school lunches. Proper school uniform and shoes.
25. Extra curricular activities
26. If parents are under pressure financial or otherwise it directly affects children.
27. Not able to afford assessments ie educational assessment
28. Children not getting proper breakfasts,- apparently there is a fund for a breakfast club and snack available from the department but the principal said he didn't want the hassle of it- it would help some children hugely- not having the right equipment for school- pencils, rubbers, stationary, even footwear and sportswear- they don't have the right equipment and it affects their confidence and willingness to partake in a full rounded educational experience
29. self esteem takes a hit, good nutrition, parents working long hours children having to go to afterschool care, tired
30. Not being able to afford extracurricular activities and grinds etc.
31. As a high earner, my children go to a DEIS school purely because of location. I feel the level of education sits with the school and principal. In my child's current school, the effort is not put in by the principal and in turn trickles down to the teacher. I believe this would probably not happen in a non DEIS school
32. My child needs to be tested for dyslexia but we can't afford to have him tested privately. There are so many children in the area that need to be tested he isn't a priority so he is falling through the system.
33. Ridiculous cost of school uniform especially when they are still growing leaves no money for child to join in sports and music
34. Housing issues
35. Having money to buy uniforms and food
36. Children from cultures where education is not valued for example Roma families, do not experience education in the same way as other children. The systemic nature of poverty, lack of education, lack of opportunity and significant deprivation really impacts on children and their opportunity to learn. Just because they are in the same class room does not mean they get the same experience.
37. Visible difference from peers in terms of clothing e.g. shoes, also the ability to extra extra support out of pocket e.g. SLT
38. Schools are over burdened with kids of so many needs. The kids who are below -low average miss out on so much. I had to pay to have my child assessed for dyslexia and where she scored low but not low enough for supports. It didn't mean learning was any easier for her. She received a spelling waiver 1/2 way through leaving cert. She needed help long before this. There are so many like her struggling but missing out as they are not deemed low enough on scores
39. Children with special needs need more support and therapies in schools, without this, it becomes complicated
40. Not being able to take part in after school activities.
41. The parents wouldnt always have the money to do extra activities
42. My child is severely behind in academic and I can't afford extra outside school help and she doesn't get enough in school to meet her needs

43. Working poor has become a reality for many families .Basics such as alternative shoes/jackets are not available.Equipmemt and Gear needed for trips /clubs is not affordable.It creates a self esteem issue for not only the child but the parent guilt and stress of constantly juggling but working so can't access help.
44. There is not enough SNA's and support teachers to manage the ever increasing challenging needs of children. There is so many needs that are not medical and so the disruption to my children's education where there is so many needs in one class is awful.
45. May not be able to concentrate due to other issue going on in the home
46. Different school facilities mean children are receiving a different education whether in a deis school or not, in my children's school in the last 2 years 3 children have left a non deis school to go to a deis school because it had more SNA hours and more facilities like a gym and play area, the only way to ensure that all children are getting an equal education, be it a deis school or not is too simply have a minimum criteria that all education facilities should meet to insure that they can fully achieve the set curriculum. If one school has a gym and one doesn't then how can those children get the same PE education in our Irish climate. The department needs to look at its basic service in education and get all schools on the same level, only then additional support is actually additional and not just meeting basic needs.
47. Parents having to work and not spend enough time with their child on homework
48. Low paid jobs
49. Uniform and shoe policy in school makes it very expensive to send them back. I am a professional worker but could not afford new school shoes for 1 child and the school jumper or jacket for the other.
50. Kids coming to school without any breakfast or snack for break/lunches. Parents unable to afford to pay for extra curricular activities. Parents unable to participate fully in supporting their child's education due to their own problems with poverty, addiction etc. Lack of sleep for kids affecting them in school the next day. Kids coming from homes where there are relationship issues, dysfunction, etc. Kids coming from other countries where there is a language and culture barrier for both them and their parents. Kids facing racism and anti immigrant sentiment in their communities. Where there are a number of schools in an area, there may be a divide between Gaelscoileanna and other schools - there may be exclusion of non nationals and kids with special needs from Gaelscoileanna meaning that other schools may have higher class numbers and classes with a higher concentration of needs which puts these children at a disadvantage due to high pupil teacher ratios. Lack of services and delayed diagnosis of children with needs.
51. Parental literacy has a huge impact, not able to support their child's academic education. Parents with English as a second language struggle with liaising with teachers. Financially, children don't have the same extra curricular experiences that others may have.
52. Maybe if a child hadn't the best uniform and didn't look as well turned out as other students they might miss out on a chance to represent their school at something and a different student gets picked instead
53. Single parent who work full time on low pay is not entitled to any state funding. They receive no maintenance payment only children allowance. They are still asked to pay school charges, uniform, etc like parents with two incomes. No regard for single parents struggling to pay mortgage, childcare and work full-time. Financially I would be better off on the dole and getting HAP.....that's the reality. Government give working family payment but you have to be earning 28k or less i.e. part time. I can't afford summer holidays and weekends away like other families.

54. If she doesn't have quality clothes, the colleagues are laughing of them.
55. Unable to afford after school activities
56. Homelessness, staying with relatives
57. School tours cost , May children lose out chance to participate due to other financial commitments
58. Less access to extra curriculum activities and grinds
59. Single or working parents able to spend less time with kids, limited income affecting activities
60. After school activities are just too expensive
61. Cost extra curricula activities example swimming
62. After school clubs
63. Extra circular activities cost alot and most need a upfront lump sum paid before the sessions take place
64. Additional needs
65. Unable to buy books, transport to school, poor nutrition affecting concentration and mental abilities
66. Cost of assessments , OT support , cost of taking children to appointments , play therapy , cost of bys to access an educate together school
67. They may not have a good breakfast begire gountg to school therefore the could be hungry and their concentration levels would not be as good as others.
68. Walking to school in all weathers, possibly no breakfast, unsuitable coat & footwear
69. Can't afford extra curricular activities
70. They might not have the money to buy their uniforms or be able to provide a lunch for the child
71. Extra activities that have to be paid for at school
72. Participate in the school trips and extra activities
73. Have to pay for swimming and all thats required to go. After school classes. Money at start of year. Insurance. It all adds up. I work and still struggle. after school classes
74. Struggling to buy uniforms
75. Bullying over type of shoes, bag.
76. Financial implications are easier to pinpoint but Parents are stressed, tired and struggling to survive themselves which means they don't have the mental and emotional capacity left for the full on (and possibly extra) engagement their child may need from them to embrace opportunities and reach their full potential.
77. He is Autistic in mainstream education
78. Unequal access to resources such as additional supports e.g.grinds, kumon etc.
79. Staff shortages so children with disabilities in mainstream schools can't avail of opportunities they are entitled to and would benefit from
80. Can't afford to pay for extracurricular activities, also my son is dyslexic but I can afford to have him assessed or pay for programs that would help him.
81. Bullying
82. Access to assistive technology
83. More in class support for teachers, stop assigning homework that requires devices
84. Bereavement/ losing a parent and unemployment
85. My child goes to a public school that used to be private up to 2013 however it now charges €2000 for extra curricular activities. We cannot afford this, even if they want to do one thing

after school like art club or choir we would have to pay €2000+ we were not told about this until July before she started school

86. Money to take part in all activities. Money for clothes and shoes associated with sports and social groups.
87. Overcrowded or temporary housing leading to disturbed sleep, lack of quiet for homework, lack of money for high quality food or cooking facilities. Understandably stressed or distressed parents
88. After school activities, homework clubs
89. Saying no to a child is the hardest thing when money is required for trips etc
90. Lack of extra after school lessons
91. A child might not get a good breakfast at home if there are financial difficulties, and this will make it much harder for them to concentrate on school work and interact with their peers.
92. Fewer resources at home (eg books, electronic devices), fewer after school activities (sports, music, social), harder to network (from play dates right up through all ages), stigma and peer pressure, more likely to need part time job while studying, more likely to have other caring responsibilities within the family.
93. There isn't a culture of going to third level education in the school or community, difficulty paying for extra curricular activities and getting to and from same.
94. If both parents are unemployed, or may not have completed their own education. If a child comes from a single parent household.
95. Exhaustion as travel to school can be harder
96. less opportunities to access out of school activities and services, such as, dancing classes, LEGO, gymnastics, swimming, Coderdojo, speech and drama, etc. Also, impossible to get my son speech therapy and OT which he really needed at an early age.
97. missed opportunities as parents don't have the will or want for their children to succeed in life
98. N/a
99. Living in a rural area and attending a small school makes it difficult for the children to be exposed to as many opportunities in school as the cost of buses are too great to make educational opportunities off the school grounds financially feasible.
100. Costs of uniforms and devices such as iPads are mandatory in our local secondary school. Starting secondary is very expensive
101. If there was any activities or purchases going on in the school the child wouldn't have the means to join said activities or purchases thus making them feel left out.
102. Disability
103. probably children of addicted parents/or one parent
104. Financial issues can affect home life and parents interest in a child's schooling etc.
105. There are opportunities missed of extra curricular activities as as result
106. Financial struggles prevent parents from accessing educational and psychological assessments even though the parents and school believe the assessment is vital for the child to thrive. Private assessments are incredibly expensive and it puts tremendous pressure on families. There is no doubt that it prevents many children from having the same chances as other children to do well in school.
107. Can't do extra curricular activities like music that help. Or even sports. Then they see other kids get awards etc and become despondent. Also can't go on educational trips like to the gaelteacht.
108. Can't afford school uniform, extracurricular activities, money for stationary, books etc

109. Access to school trips, cost of additional supplies for specific subjects. Cost of ty. Additional charges administrative charges children singled out if not paid no locker provided etc
110. Parents aren't in a position to send their children to college and therefore don't encourage them to work harder
111. moved child from gaelscoil to deis school for more 'support' for a year, had to reverse that move this year as no support given in deis, even though he is confirmed as ADHD and dyslexia by psychologist.
112. Low income families. Food shortages
113. Lack of disability services for Down Syndrome children in the school such as speech and language
114. It's harder to pay for the extra activities such as swimming etc, also harder for some families to support their child's education at home with homework etc
115. Constantly waiting for funding for services. Not having all the available services other schools would have language units etc
116. Money problems limits experiences for kids in school as costs build up especially if a family has more than one child. Trips and experiences within schools all cost money. The healthy eating scheme in schools is brilliant initiative but for families that are low incomes it makes things a lot harder not every child eats fruits and vegetables and are limited to just crackers or a sandwich or wrap because the cost of shopping is astronomical
117. Not having access to SNAs/teaching assistants
118. If they need extra help in subjects parents can't afford it.
119. Partaking in activities throughout the school year eg World Book Day, dress up days etc
120. Mental health, not having a good breakfast to start the day, confidence, self worth
121. Money for lunch, uniforms, school supplies and extra curricular activities
122. Uniforms, extra curricular activities inside & outside school. Exposure to other experiences - competitions, trips etc.
123. Arriving tired and eventually after long commuting, lack of attention and focus due to poor nutrition, lack of attention and focus due to lack of outdoor physical activities that a working carer could not provide, social embarrassment for being underdressed.
124. School uniforms / even with the back to school allowance unable to just pay for a few sets, access to classes - courses, eg sports gymnastics arts crafts extracurricular while better off families can just do that, costs of school trips - when have they become so expensive that a family of four can't afford to send their children to class trips ? Financial worry at home will always affect children - anxiety will carry over into the school, access to doctors dentists ect as school dentistry / nurse visits are not a thing anymore - not enough doctors / dentists and private is unaffordable... no access to technology at home / or sufficient wifi - in a classroom that's even in primary is pretty much digital no access at home puts children back behind their peers and last but not least bullying for being poor
125. Affording swimming lessons, foreign school tours in secondary, grinds if struggling in school
126. Not having access to after school activities therefore excluded from friends. Not having proper food
127. Cost of extra curricular activities eg hurling football etc
128. No money to go on school trips
129. Music, drama and sports activities classes

130. Support at home, hard to participate in extra curricular activities as cost for them. School tours etc
131. Poor food choices, lack of experiences that other children take for granted, old worn clothes obviously not new, lowers self esteem, confidence and increases vulnerability leading to unhappiness and a reduced ability to focus concentrate and actually learn at school
132. my child is not qualified for this uniform and shoes allowance, i hope all children in this country will be qualified no matter how much the family earn, or they add to their child's benefits which is like a voucher that can be spent for a certain shop here. So it's up to the parents when they will use it.
133. We live in the hotel. We don't have home.
134. Payments in receipt of social welfare payments or on low income may not be able to afford the optional parent's contribution to their children's schools or afford school trips etc
135. ability to participate in after school activities, attendance to social events like parties, attendance to school trips and buying things at school markets / fundraisers etc
136. Having to choose which activities the child can take part in
137. Neurodiversity
138. On waiting list on Cdnt team since she was 2 she is 7 now still nothing. Not having the money for private appointments and money for clubs good food etc..
139. Nutritional food, extra curricular activities such as sports or music classes or dance classes.
140. Additional support from tutors if required. Family stress impacting the home environment due to financial struggles. Children feeling alienated if they don't have the same shoes, coats etc as other children. The mindset impact of a child feeling less than because they may not have the same as others resulting in an overall belief that they are different and that can have a knock on effect on their studies
141. School fees, uniform costs,
142. Access to college. Buying a device other than a phone to complete work
143. more support
144. Child's needs are not met if coming from a home that has difficulties. This in turn affects the child's learning, socially, mentally etc
145. There are many children in our area who are denied equal opportunities to discover their underlying talents. Some sports and hobbies are desirable due to funding but many are inaccessible to children due to costs..especially swimming, gymnastics, music lessons and also extra private home tuition such as grinds is not an option for these kids.
146. Some school trips are out of parents budget.
147. Cost of living - pressure on parents to find money for uniforms, food, etc
148. Lack of resources for school, won't have all parts of uniform, can't do all school activities or go on trips, may not have a locker in school.
149. Supplies. Parental help at home. Stability.
150. access to extracurricular activities, access to good nutrition, access to holidays and enrichment experiences, access to interventions and supports, access to third level etc
151. Money for lunches, school trips, school fees, uniforms, shoes
152. Access to curriculum and reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities and no outcomes measured in school special schools or classes
153. Missing school. Missing out on activities/outings if can't afford pay them

154. Private swimming lessons, extracurricular activities, holidays away, expensive clothes, all leading to child's anxiety and hatred of school, feels different as im lone parent and we don't own a house
155. Eating healthy food (can be very expensive), worries in the home over money translate into worries for the child, access to after school activities is limited, children don't want to ask their parents for money for school trips etc, or they may not have access to the equipment needed to participate in sports.
156. Being warm, safe and fed at home.
157. **St. Brendan's** have no music classes, after school sports no breakfast club. There's nothing for our boys
158. The lack of food in their belly to help them learn. Hot lunches have made a huge difference. No access to extra curricular activities. Parents.stressed.
159. Immigrant has financial struggle specially when only one parent is earning to enroll child in different after school paid activities. even if child want to attain .
160. Lunch costs daily, sporting activities
161. Malnutrition, unaffordable safe living environments
162. Uniforms not uniform
163. Lack of childcare makes it difficult to reach on after school activities or summer camps for working parents who are struggling to hold down a job and raise happy, well adjusted, healthy children
164. Grind school: children that attend have a significant advantage of attaining higher points that afford access to third level. The cost of leaving certificate school books is massive and unnecessary newer versions insisted upon by the school means books are outdated and this effects planetary sustainability issues and cost issues. Travel costs: school children should have free travel (leap cards) and the cost of school trips should be subsidised to afford less financially secure families to enable children to avail of the experiences. All school costs should be tax deductible including travel , books, uniforms, mandatory school fees such as insurance should be tax free. Making costs tax deductible will benefit those that can claim tax relief whilst subsidising those that cannot and also support schools and take the pressure off schools. There should be no need for bring schools and there is, in fact schools essentially encourage children to attend although this is not explicit. Parents that work shifts or where both parents work do not have the time to support children's homework and in no job are people expected to do two jobs - children attend school and should not have to do homework, this would take the pressure off parents that have to work and financially support teachers in not having to grade during their own time.
165. Parental education and ability.
166. Lack of extra money to provide the same standards of goods or services as their peers
167. Poor nutrition leading to poor concentration and cognitive and physical and mental abilities, lack of school supplies leading to work not done, transportation and distance from school affecting how easy it is to get to school
168. Extra tuition for struggling subjects. Part taking in extra curricular activities which is expensive. Having same facilities at home like other children in their peer group. All this reduces their self esteem and in turn lead to academic issues and peer group pressure.
169. Struggling to buy laptops, going on trips e.g Ski Trips etc
170. In second level there is inequality in those who can afford school trips or grinds in subjects they are experiencing difficulty with. In primary not having access to extra curricular

music or activities means that they are socially and physically separated from their peers because they cannot afford to attend these places.

171. Eating properly, correct school items & uniform, poor support at home
172. External tour & Trip that would benefit their education. Paying for after school study & grinds.
173. Healthy lunches disadvantaged kids can't afford disgraceful
174. Not enough for lunch
175. Access to
176. Medical issues
177. Children with support can have greater conditions for a better future
178. Afford the same after school activities, sportswear and equipment sometimes travel expenses
179. Lack of SEN Support, lack of assessments for kids who need them, no support for children who are struggling with the basics
180. Can't afford some trips
181. Can't afford high quality food, can't afford after school care
182. Additional needs access to supports the child requires, access to assessments the child's needs, more needs to be done to support children with additional needs you should not have to fight so hard for what your child needs to make their life easier in school.
183. Can't afford uniform, books, going on school trips etc can lead to bullying for other children which can affect their progress in school. Parents may be more interested in children working than progressing school to help support the family
184. Not sure why schools do ski trips not even educational
185. external activities like music lessons; electronic gadgets like their peers; having money to buy lunch in canteen instead of a packed lunch;
186. They may not be able to buy books and other items that they need for their education or go on trips like the other kids
187. Transport
188. School Trips Abroad
189. Other children have access to grinds and sponsor schools and so their children get more attention
190. The "preferred" public secondary school in our community required 200 euro per pupil for incoming 1st years to accept their admission after a high demand lottery. I had to pay 400 for 2 pupils, with no family discount available despite pursuing it.
191. It is financially impossible and stressful to try and provide for your child and give them every chance possible
192. Ability to pay for trips during the school day or activities such as swimming which are listed as compulsory under the PE programme but very expensive
193. Kids can not achieve the same levels of education when struggling financially
194. Costs for extra curricular activities, school trips, lack of information on what extra curricular activities are available free/otherwise
195. May not have the opportunity for extra curricular activities and events which helps them to grow and develop
196. School tours are expensive, sports events away can add up if you've a number of children

197. Extra activities require financial support from parents for example ukulele lessons.....I have 3 kids at the school. Thankfully 3rd in infants...other 2 want to do Ukulele costing €98. Not everyone can afford this.
198. Home support due to low level of education in the home. Access to supports such as IT infrastructure. Access to food in the home environment.
199. As we live in Mobile homes in winter we would struggle with heating and try to keep pipes from freezing so some kind have to use the outside bathroom in the cold
200. Money to buy resources, pay for school expenses, extra curricular activities etc
201. The cost of living is gone so high that some people need to choose between paying the rent or buying food. There are the costs of sending the child to school for eg. Swimming is 80 euros. 30 for music generation which is a complete waste of money when other schools with music generation are able to learn a musical instrument. Constant sponsorship to raise funds for the school.
202. Cannot participate in tour since its expensive
203. Absenteeism, lack of support for homework, lack of nutrition (a good breakfast in the morning), language barriers (if the child is coming from a non English speaking household) , access to extra curricular activities, access to school supplies (uniforms, warm coat etc), transport for children living far from the school
204. Parents have to work so may not be available to give as much help with homework. Children that come from a family suffering from financial hardship or other, may not get the same support with extra needs etc. The cost of crested school uniforms and mandatory extra curricular activities eg swimming, can be very hard on parents and if they cannot be afforded the child will feel left out or singled out.
205. There are many extra costs to parents and it is especially hard if there are a few school going children in the family. Also extra curricular activities are very costly.
206. Parents not present
207. School activities are very expensive.e.g.keyboard classes 140€?These activities should be a part of their curriculum
208. I feel there is pressure out in me by my children going to school as they see their friends with the best of everything, I can't afford 150€+ for a pair of runners, ir the best of jackets, my child also get picked on because she "doesn't fit in"
209. Having a home where they can invite their friends - this improves their social interactiveness leading to many important personal traits. Correct nutrition. Food poverty is visible in some families. Having access to appropriate health care. whether that is having a medical card or having the money to pay for a doctors visit.
210. If a parent has money worries they are less likely to be concerned with helping children with educational activities due to more pressing concerns on the family
211. Lack of money to pay for buses for extra curricular activities and trips and tours are expensive even though this isn't education, it is the school experience
212. Access to holistic learning opportunities, recreational experiences and grinds when in need of extra support
213. Being so rural we don't have access to coaches for other sports, dance classes, swimming availability closer to us.
214. If there is a lack of money for food, extracurricular activities and school uniforms etc
215. Third level applications, foreign trips while in school
216. Even though Government introduced free book up to junior cycle it was pressure & extra money having to pay for the children's ipads, also have had to get extra hardback

copybooks, admin fees for 2nd & 3rd year students which was steep at €60 per year & also have costs of trips to pay & don't want my children to miss out on the trip as they need it for a social/confidence factor.

- 217. Cost of extra curricular activities
- 218. If they can't afford to get private assessments and struggle they may not get appropriate support in school. Struggles to have time to do homework as parents in other hardships may struggle to cope which will also provide difficult support at home
- 219. Not been able to participate in extra curricular activities due to financial hardship
- 220. Attendance for extra curricular activities that cost money as I would not have 5 or 10 euros at a days notice between pay days for buses or trips or to sign up for clubs
- 221. Some families may not afford to facilitate grinds for junior and leaving cert exams, which puts some students ahead with an advantage than others.
- 222. Unable to afford additional activities, possibility of additional money will be earned for a house will take priority over getting a child to school, sometimes there is simply no money to pay for transport to school
- 223. College and school trips are expensive
- 224. life experiences such as school trips/trendy clothes when out in social environments which marginal these kids further as they feel they are different.
- 225. Additional services and support are all being privatised. Therefore if you're child has any issues or concerns that are affecting schooling without being part of the curriculum, it is a substantial cost.
- 226. Hungry, cold, anxious
- 227. Child aint neglected but financial hardship for me,very expensive/stressful buying uniforms etc
- 228. Less opportunities
- 229. Lack of AON for my child who has Down syndrome
- 230. Not having a opportunity to have the laptop, a shared laptop is available for classes that require it but not enough that a child has one each so not available for every class. Hunger plans a major role in the child's ability to learn. Disadvantaged areas some children growing up in unhappy homes and some children have parents who are unable or don't help with homework. I find often children who are not recognised as being disadvantaged or not from a particular background can fall though cracks and go unnoticed also there isn't as much supports available to them unless the family who may be too embarrassed discloses it to the school
- 231. My child has additional needs and is way behind her peers in the classroom, access to therapy is impossible due to costs and waiting lists - we are already waiting 5 years to access psychologist. Additional supports for my child are not being made available in school because of lack of psychologist reports. I cannot afford to pay €900 for private reports. So my child goes to school and is literally learning nothing because of her disabilities and lack of supports that would allow her learn something.
- 232. Cant afford trips with the school or swimming lessons
- 233. Families with family problems cannot pay for grinds or extracurricular activities and children suffer. They can suffer socially by missing out on outings that the other kids can attend
- 234. Don't understand the qs. Examples of financial struggles? High mortgage, low wages, expensive childcare, increase in household bills
- 235. Not having money to do after school activities as it's too expensive

236. A lot of school activities can be expensive
237. Both parents having to work means less time devoted to homework & school projects. No printer at home means they can't print materials/photos etc required for homework
238. I think that it's more financially difficult to put your child into after school activities which greatly benefits a child's confidence and inclusion because it's so expensive, trying to put a child through college with no assistance/grant and while both parents work hard, then you get kids in primary school may suffer as a result
239. I have no education to help with my kids homework
240. Financial issues due to addiction, separation, lack of parental guidance/ support
241. School trips / activities which parents might not be able to afford
242. Deis school parents save on lunch money and after school activities. Although we live in a disadvantaged area, my kids attend a non deis school. We pay for after school club and all after school activities. We've no home liaison. We've big classes. We literally pay for everything
243. Access to proper support from SET, SLT, OT AND AUTISM UNITS
244. Access to Extra curriculars costs, access to Gaeltacht (sponsorship announced but only available to Deis schools) what about thousands who cannot afford Gaeltacht in non Deis school.
245. Single parent working full time gets no state entitlements except children's allowance. So hard to pay mortgage, childcare fees of x25hrs @7.20 per hour, car loan, bills on one small salary. Your outgoings on basic like childcare and mortgage/rent is not taken into account when means tested.
246. Adding extra activities and just asking for money to be paid straight away. Offering afterschool activities without explaining they are private at private prices
247. Private support to help with Schoolwork, Parents having to both work and pay bills unable to support own children with homework etc, family struggles with pressure and stress in home environment where children are unable to concentrate in school
248. Access to good nutrition & educational support greatly improve a child's prospects
249. Cost of school trips, school devices, books, transition year activities, cost of travel to national sport events
250. Not been able to paid for excursion or tours that would benefit them like their peers .made feel different by being excluded.
251. I take my child outside our community to a non deis school because I feel the culture of those schools need to change before an educational change will happen. Instead at throwing resources at these schools more efforts should be made to change the mindsets of the parents/families. These children and their families have an attitude of expecting everything to be handed to them, which the children see and learn from. For a child to do well, there parents have to really want it too.
252. Voluntary contributions, school book costs, uniform costs, food poverty
253. Lack of extracurricular - e.g, sports, drama etc..can in some schools mean less opportunities for in school activities as 'not good'
254. Hunger, worry/stress that their parents are under, no support at home if both parents working, other responsibilities at home caring for younger siblings,
255. Parents don't have money to pay for after school activities such as music or sport. More children from non English speaking families so struggle to keep up with reading and

homework which resulted in whole class having to redo Junior infant reading books again in Senior infants.

256. Sna allocation and nurse for feeding supports. Specialised clothing for additional needs reasons very expensive.
257. Lack of sufficient place to sleep, lack of sufficient meals both would impact a child's concentration
258. Paying for uniforms or voluntary contributions and afterschool activities
259. Extracurricular activities
260. Housing location and lack of permanent housing
261. Treated differently by teachers , there is plenty of money not spent after been raised to help students for eg can't buy Christmas sprao schools answer is give them to those who pay 2e but don't do them in school then as not every one has them makes no since at all
262. Expensive school trips. Regular requests for money from school for various fund raising activities. Requests for 'voluntary' contributions. Schools should just have 1 uniform that can be worn for PE also, instead of having impractical outdated clothes having both shoes and runners etc. It puts big pressure in oarents
263. Harder to pay for school clubs, kids getting ridiculed for not having fancy shoes, coats bags.. schools always needing money for something and wanting the money quickly../
264. Cost of extra curricular activities
265. Stigma attached to poverty. Kids singling out child with less
266. Addiction, mental health issues of parents,
267. interactive white boards in our school are nearly 20 years old and there is no plan to replace them, even though they are not working properly.
268. Lack of access to after school clubs with peers as they are costly
269. They can't afford grinds like others which means they can't achieve the same results in exams. They can't afford to go on educational trips
270. Maybe they can't afford food or books. Also a child that may not have a home may bot be able to sleep or participate fully in school. A child who hasn't basic needs met ie food and shelter can't fully participate or feel they belong in school and could potentially feel excluded from education and that in turn creates a negative view of education. This has life long consequences for a child. Poverty traps are created this way.
271. a family not being able to afford a tutor / homework help
272. Language barriers and both parents working and not able to help children with homework because of language, time and other constraints.
273. Where parents are too busy or not really interested due to thier own issues, be in financial or otherwise.
274. Money
275. My son has been in Ireland for 5 years this Nov 6th , came when he was 6 years old started school now he is 11 years old cannot read , write or even count maths . He gets pushed to one class after the other , No assistance learning gadget I even offered to pay for one but they said they have it under control it has been years he is just floating at school wasting time . We do one thing every beginning of September sign documents that he needs editional help that we give consent for his files to be shared with other dept like NEPS , occupational therapy , speech therapy name it we give consent but same result every year . No diagnosis no forward plan just him going to school daily , yearly without any resolution or at least help him float instead of just keeping other kids company to be honest I believe may just maybe if we were fully Irish maybe he would get help or maybe just maybe if I had

powers to speak louder maybe he would get help but we still go to school him floating doesn't understand nothing at school from 6 years until 11 years maybe even years to come silently I am not okay I know soon he will lose interest in school because of insecurities but we wait for that day.

276. Access to extra curricular activities
277. A hungry child would find it hard to work and concentrate at school and possibly not have internet/devices at home for homework research, and now coming in to the colder months, may struggle to keep warm and get a good night sleep for school. Not everyone has access to local bus or perhaps a car to travel to school.eep
278. If that can't afford books, technology, food to concentrate
279. Intellectual disability
280. They are viewed differently by the teachers they might not have the correct materials required for the class, they are coming in tired they are hungry
281. We can't afford driving lessons, so my children miss out on a lot of activities, e.g. hurling matches played in different county towns.
282. My children are from a MiCA house. We have had to knock down our home , move to rented accommodation and 18 months later we are still rebuilding home. That means rent payment and mortgage payments every month and the stresses that come with building a house.
283. They can feel the stress parents are under to pay bills, get food on the table. They may take on the stress themselves which can effect their mood and how they concentrate at school.
284. Rent, bills, childcare, parents working too long hours, or having no work
285. Have to pay to get assessments done as school don't see the same issues that we see when doing homework. Paying for a school bus for trips so they can go means they miss out on going to local events/ afterschool sporting activities as we can't afford both and want they to fit in
286. School is always asking for money, example photocopy 50 euro and then send docs in pdf for me to print I haven't got a printer. 2. Parents and children point out the difference between themselves and us.
287. Affording expensive uniforms. Paying for school trips/activities. Neuro diversity
288. Maybe parents can't afford school trips or school uniforms or school bags or school shoes
289. I'm stressed to pay the bills so the child can do what everyone else is doing!
290. Poor diet causes a lot of absence through sickness. The cost of living is so high it's cheaper to buy processed food than fresh. Low income causes fights at home. Social welfare is not obtainable to all for back to school allowance. I'm a full time carer and entitled to NO social welfare or benefits. While on paper we look like a good income is coming into the house. The additional cost of therapies, and bills and living have pushed us into a low income family.
291. Can exclude them from sports and other extracurricular activities
292. Music extra lessons
293. Access to Advances in technology, access to mental health services when the hse are not supplying the necessary services
294. Social stigma, unsupportive teachers
295. Extra Maths, English, music and drama classes

296. Having access to good nutritious food for energy and concentration. Having access to technology to complete homework as this is such a push nowadays. When money for extra curricular activities like their peers.
297. Lack of extra curriculum activities to motivate a child and help with development. Food poverty at home where a child feels hungry and affects concentration. Lack of supports in school and community supports if they have disabilities that need addressing.
298. Parental support can be hard, when the stresses of bills etc cloud your mind.
299. Availability of disposable income to do activities outside of school that enhance their learning and also provide a diversity of experiences for them. Having parents that work full time and are unable to spend more time with them after school. Children left to their own devices during this time
300. Value parents place on education
301. Loneliness
302. It is easier for the slightly better off parents (like ourselves) to afford extra private help for our children if necessary
303. If there are additional financial costs (but we just started school for the first time)
304. Basically money to pay for things.
305. Extra-curricular subjects that cost money cannot be afforded by many. Parents both working, affects what can be attended (by students and parents) due to working hours and travel arrangements. Not being able to afford the latest fashion shoes or coat or device can isolate children from their peers. Keeping uniforms standard and non-branded, and restricting use of devices, etc. can level the playing field a little.
306. No car in the household means they can't take part in some school activities where parents need to bring children instead of teachers.
307. Don't get the same offer of opportunities
308. If the parent of the child is unemployed I think that's one of the factor that could affect the child education
309. Not having access to activities and hobbies outside school, access to extra tuition or grinds to help with some subjects.
310. Secure, warm home. No security for families who rent and extra financial pressure.
311. Extra curriculum activities, lack of food, heat costs, lack of space in homes where there generational house sharing
312. Paying for buses to school activities, swimming lessons, school tours. Crested uniforms
313. Food poverty, home issues
314. Extra curricular experience restricted, ability to go in school trips etc Quality footwear poor footwear can result in leaky shoes, poor foot support and depending on age embarrassment as children aware their footwear is not designer. Poor diet/lunch over reliance on cheap processed products, bad teeth due to high sugar volume in processed food and drink. Family struggles, many families living with intergenerational relations for to inability to buy home in area they want to live in.
315. Extra tutoring
316. I feel that the children of parents who have financial struggles suffer in other areas too and they don't put the same effort to ensuring their children attend school, attend on time and put as much effort and attention into their school work
317. School activities etc

318. If you don't have food or heat at home you're going to be stressed and unhappy. Then financial struggles stop you from mixing and integrating properly. If your parents can't put €10 in an envelope for a friends party they are not going to let you go.
319. Mental health. Financial difficulties make it harder to pursue extra curricular activities that improve mental health, thereby giving the child a better chance of good study skills
320. Parents educational background, parent's job, size of the family
321. Cost of buses to take children to educational and sporting events. We live in a rural area and to take the pupils from our small (65 pupils) school to the next biggest town (45mins) costs in excess of €600. Our children miss out on a lot of activities as a result. Cost of running the school day to day is also very big and we struggle to pay the bills and keep the light and heat on.
322. If they don't have gear for sports or the 'right gear'. Meaning they don't have branded items and be made fun of. They don't have lifts to sport events to play matches. They can't afford the activities in school.
323. Children going to school without breakfast or dinner. Going to school without a coat in the rain.
324. Auxiliary devices are needed to perform the task: a table, a chair, stationery. The child needs to practice dancing.
325. Unable to go on school educational trips / not able to avail of outside school grounds if necessary / unable to afford essential school supplies
326. No financial support for favourite extracurricular courses
327. Children might be hungry so don't pay attention in school. Worry about things that kids who are not financially struggle and impacts their view on things
328. Extra school costs such as tours
329. Cost of living crisis has affected everyone, be it a child having to leave an activity/club or sacrificing the on trend items to keep up with friends or general everyday items such as food/school supplies etc
330. Sports, Clothing Holidays

Q7. What does your child's school do well to support children from families with financial struggles and other hardships?

1. Don't Know
2. Unsure as this is not communicated to the school community.
3. Don't know
4. Reduced costs to parents who cannot afford
5. It treats them the same as the other kids.
6. Unsure
7. I'm not sure as I've luckily never availed, but correspondence from school does say to get in touch if in any difficulty with payments.
8. BREAKFAST AND LUNCHES PROVIDED FREE TO ALL
9. Pay for swim classes ,
10. Summer camps
11. Applied for the school lunch program

12. Not sure
13. Easy payment options
14. Unknown
15. Offers free second hand uniforms but only what they have, might not have the exact size.
Free books also, only have buy stationary
16. Provides hot lunches
17. Helps with uniform (2nd hand)
18. Nothing
19. Breakfast Club hot lunch hampers of food
20. Hot meals, breakfast club, help with uniforms, free book scheme
21. There do not ask for voluntary contributions
22. I do not know
23. I don't know
24. They started a uniform swap, school books are paid for
25. hot meals, subsidised activities, same access to all subjects and courses
26. di5nt know
27. There is a family support fund which can be used to enable children to take part in certain activities, for example. Its funded by the parents association
28. I don't know but the parents council have ran unifom swap programs etc
29. Don't know as haven't approached school for such support
30. Providing hot lunches
31. Not sure
32. If I approached the school and explained that I couldn't afford to pay for swimming lessons.
They would let me off.
33. They are speaking about bringing in school lunches . I think a breakfast club would be the best plan. Set kids up for the day lunch is too late to fix a problem starting in the morning.
Granted not all children want to eat early if its simple and offered and others are eating g they may well eat alongside their peers.
34. I'm not sure. But there is a big community commitment here to assist all families.
35. After schools club, lunches
36. Free book scheme. After
37. Post primary offers after school supervised study and clubs for free e.g. gardening
38. Nothing
39. The Principal worries about those famlies, he reaches out to Parent's Association to see if there's something that can be done. He appeals to other families who no longer need uniforms if those can be donated to those families.
40. payment plans
41. Offers assistance with paid activities, e.g. school trips. I don't know how exactly as it's always a question of contacting them about it if you need help.
42. Allows families to pay contributions and fees in segments
43. Waive fees, offer extra support

44. A vegetable bag is given out every 2 weeks. Hot lunches are provided. The school could be doing a lot more with the amount of grants available
45. Advance notice in payments for school. Payment plans
46. Listen well, help to find resources outside of school even when children at teenage stage too conscious of attending for help in school, re school counsellor etc.
47. Free lunches
48. Uniform swap
49. As an Educate Together (primary) school every effort is made to ensure the cost of things doesn't get used to exclude children. Simple things like donation rather than cost for cake sales and 'jersey day', suggestions that a collection of a small donation (max 5e) for teacher gifts is done and ALL children are included on the card/gift even if there is no contribution. When the staff are aware of financial issues, effort is made to ensure the children are included in school tours etc without needing to pay. Inclusion is so important, the circumstances of a family should not 'reflect' on the child in the room.
50. Voluntary contribution kept to min, many sports and opportunities
51. Nothing our secondary school decided to introduce a compulsory jacket this year banning any form of other jacket. They sent out a survey before it to parents stating a price of €55-65 when in fact the jacket is costing €70+ to parents. Parents I spoke to refused the introduction in the survey. There was no thought or insight to it being a FEID community
52. They try to treat all children equally
53. If a payment needs to be made regarding g fees there's always an option to pay in installments
54. Sometimes they let off payment for things that are very expensive. But it is not formal
55. I am not aware of any. It has not been made clear if there is support for those in need of financial aid and I have not requested any aid.
56. you go talk to them if experiencing diff paying fees for fieldtrips and voluntary contribution
57. Uniform and sports gear swaps, book sales.
58. Free Hot School Lunches, Pre-Loved Uniforms
59. Not Perdue the "voluntary contributions" €160 including materials for this year child in second class. Secondary school is €100
60. Families where parents aren't working are given uniforms and trips are sponsored
61. 2nd hand uniform sales
62. We are non Deis, exist in temporary accommodation and have to fundraise about 8 times a year just to supply sports equipment or install an outdoor shelter to protect from the rain
63. Lots of "secondhand drives" for books, uniforms, equipment,
64. Free books and meals but not with additional teaching support for my child's dyslexia. No pressure in primary for voluntary contributions but more so in secondary. More support in general for parents on welfare schemes but not for working families.
65. The school provides snacks and hot lunches.
66. Free school lunches
67. Breakfast and low cost lunches. No PE uniform.

68. Support with uniforms, school books, meals etc.
69. Im not sure but i do think they would help out as they do uniform swaps days
70. School lunch.Helps with uniform swaps and swaps of sports equipment
71. I don't know
72. I don't know. I was to ashamed to ask.
73. Offer community liaison. They let us pay in installments for fees.
74. NA
75. Offers swimming lessons and physical activities
76. I don't know. If help is given, it is given discreetly..
77. Meals in school, book scheme
78. Uniform swap/donations, fees can be paid in installments, laptops & internet access for underprivileged children during the covid school from home days
79. Offer uniform swaps - parents hsnd in uniforms their childrem no longer need sbd parents in need are welcome to take uniforms free of charge.
80. Not sure
81. I don't know
82. Nothing that I am aware of
83. Nothing
84. The principal always offers assistance with anything that requires payment if families are struggling.
85. Provides breakfast from an early time & hot lunch
86. I have no idea
87. I'm not sure
88. Says if can't afford trip, to contact them. That's all.
89. Hot dinners for all is a good support.
90. It has provide access to SNA and SEN support & IEP
91. Unsure
92. Gives discount to medical card holders
93. Hot lunches are provided
94. Subsided activities
95. Primary school advise to speak to them if unable to cope with financial pressure to pay for items
96. No idea
97. School books lunches and only having to wear school tracksuit saves a lot too on uniforms
98. I think through Allidan a family doesn't have to come up with the full amount but pay in installments
99. School says if you can't afford payments not to worry
100. Unsure but they charge parents for activities that take place within the school Day which must be very hard on parents financially Struggling
101. Breakfast and lunch
102. Not sure there is scholarship tests run for high performing academic pupils

103. Provide food, books and outings
104. all get school lunches
105. Pays for school trips and materials, provides breakfast and lunch,, gives supermarket vouchers at Christmas
106. Don't know.
107. School lunches are free, minimal fees
108. I don't know,
109. Supplies lunches
110. Free book scheme. School meals. Uniform swap.
111. School lunches
112. Not sure exactly but I know they help!
113. Pays for books copies and supplies, assists with school trips
114. Offers a hot lunch to students. One family fee for photocopying, insurance, etc
115. Discrete assistance provided by the Principal for those who need it
116. Second hand uniform swap, not have to pay the voluntary contribution
117. Payment options breakfast club ,lunches ,book scheme
118. Where possible helps towards cost of books. They don't push the voluntary fees if you are struggling.
119. Home school liaison teacher
120. hot lunches, summer programme for children with additional needs, reading programmes such as Hug a book for parents and children
121. Free lunches
122. Free fruit, good reasonable canteen
123. Hot food. Lunches. Fundraising for trips etc.
124. School lunches and school books provided
125. Don't know
126. They have a liason officer and always have someone to talk to.
127. Used to pay for books/can pay for things in instalments
128. Very little
129. I have absolutely no idea
130. Not sure.
131. I'm not aware
132. When requesting money, they will send message out and ask any family under financial pressure to contact the principal or deputy principal who would be able to assist with discretion. Hot meals were introduced recently
133. I don't actually know
134. The school my children attend offer resource hours to children requiring extra support before they have assessments.
135. School completion programme
136. Not aware

137. I am not sure of specifics as thankfully haven't needed to avail but I know that the Voluntary Contribution was very much voluntary. A note was sent maybe once and that was it. There was never pressure to pay. The free school meals and books are also great.
138. It's a deis school so has limited resources to help
139. Not sure
140. They always have an option to contact the school if there's any barriers stopping children from attending extra activities and encourage all children to participate
141. School book scheme
142. School trips or events are posted well in time for families to have notice and prepare for it
143. Swap uniforms . Can talk to principle if struggling financially.
144. They don't have to pay the voluntary contributions. Don't know if there is any other help.
145. parents council have set up uniform swap and halloween and xmas swap, provide hot meals
146. I'm not sure
147. Summer camp
148. They put supports in place for learning - resource packs to aid children who struggle with educational needs. They allow every child to avail of activities and interact with their peers. Encourage exclusiveness for all regardless of their situation.
149. Provides a rental scheme for musical instruments, the PA collected money and put it towards swimming classes to bring down the cost. Offers a buy second hand uniform day.
150. School books and lovely hot lunches everyday
151. I don't know
152. Provides uniforms, food, courses to attend.
153. Parents courses, support for children that require learning support, lots of after school and during school sports
154. I have no idea if there's any support. All I know is there are activities that you pay for, such as external teacher coming in to teach tin whistle or a trip to Westwood to learn swimming etc. and failure to pay for these activities does not preclude students to participate in them.
155. Secondary school book grants
156. Emotional support for child, finds creative solutions to school refusal and anti - social behaviour, dedicated parent shcool liason officer,
157. Hot meals
158. pay certain fees installments
159. They take the pressure off from a cost perspective for items such as stationary etc, they have additional food in their fridge to help supplement lunches, the parents association collect extra money to reduce costs on families on low income etc so that their child/ren don't miss out on school activities
160. Free books, support classes for kids with extra needs

161. provide breakfast, and reduce charges for activities
162. Unsure as it's our guest term there
163. uniform swaps, providing lap tops if needed
164. Organize swaps for uniforms, sports equipment and other
165. my child is not qualified for this uniform and shoes allowance, i hope all children in this country will qualified no matter how much the family earn, or they add to their child's benefits which is like a voucher that can spend for a certain shop here. So it's up to the parents when they will use it.
166. Give them school equipment
167. Supplies clothes to the family
168. School meals
169. Other than the lunch box meals, I am unaware
170. they offer good support to children with additional needs. Unsure of ways they help to families with financial struggles although the school is attached to the church where support is available
171. I don't know
172. On paper they have SNAs and resource hours
173. Tesco free food I got a few times think it's the first 20 people who apply first.
174. Always invite parents to talk to the school if they can't afford things.
175. In our case, this means providing my daughter with a social worker and having a teacher's assistant accompany the child.
176. Not sure what they do
177. Payment plans can be arranged for any money that is due to our school
178. Approachable staff
179. School lunches are provided and activities subsidised
180. Not sure
181. Don't know
182. Nothing what constantly asks for money for to support the school
183. They don't chase payments for additional things from parents that need help.
184. install payments instead of lump sum, nobodies going to ask for a freebie like!
185. Canteen system, book scheme, provide devices in school, they have their own school bus and this cuts transport costs, TY fees are much less than other schools around but they have an excellent programme
186. Provide hot meals, although served daily in aluminium containers which is unhealthy and often junk / good nutrition deprived food.
187. i'm not sure
188. School lunches, but at present the school lunch that is provided a lot of the children will not eat the food. We end up having to send in lunches anyway.
189. No mandatory fees, school tour bi annually, World book day bi annually, free book scheme, hot school meals
190. Secondary school is deis. It provides free breakfast to all children

191. We get help buying things or get help in school
192. I do not know
193. Having generic uniforms is huge help, these can be purchases so inexpensively (important as children grow so quickly/wear out) Crested uniforms are a big additional expense and don't provide any benefits at primary level. The lunches are also good for families who may experience food poverty.
194. Provides hot meals, provides variety of sporting activities, informs parents to contact school for help if they are struggling with costs
195. Provide lunches and shopping vouchers at xmas
196. Reduced school fees, hot lunches. Free after school
197. Lunch provided
198. Give weekly fresh food bags. Have a HSCL to liaise with family. Some kids exempt from certain payments, I think.
199. There's a home teacher. They have hot lunches. SNAs. Homework Club.
200. I don't know
201. They have not shared any information on this to me
202. Hot lunches are provided, school books are provided the option to donate uniforms kids have grown out of, sports wear kids have grown out of etc
203. No vol contribution costs kept to minimum
204. Hot meals free books
205. All children are treated equally and every child gets a chance
206. Not sure haven't come across it
207. no idea
208. Hot lunches (but they could be healthier), low cost after school activities eg Lego club, art club etc at €5 a week. I'm not sure what else, we have never approached the school for help and I think would find it very difficult to do so if we did need it.
209. In my opinion the school could give up school uniforms or agree to one version, e.g. a sports one that provides comfort to children during the year parents struggle to buy at least 2 shirts, as well as 2 sweaters, two pairs of trousers and two sports sets, plus two pairs of shoes, and after all children also have to have normal clothes which increases expenses, instead of stretching the parents' addictions the school could sell one by a clasp or magnet and change from a sweatshirt to a sweatshirt every year there is also a fee for materials and copies which should be co-financed from the state budget and I do not understand the discrepancy in the amounts, well in Sallins the fee for the 6th grade is 55 € and this also includes swimming lessons in another school I pay 50 € and then another 50 for swimming lessons
210. I don't know
211. Gives away 2nd hand uniforms
212. There was not much on offer as a result I have taken my children out of a deis school as I felt it was limiting them. No sport, no GAA etc.

213. Everything they possible can do, they are very vigilant to family needs, they supply breakfast club, they fund sports equipment, sports involvement, swimming, hot lunches, Tesco generously supply bags of fruit & veg to any student/parent partnership that might like to avail of it. All the teachers are very supportive to the child's needs both physically and emotionally. We are very lucky to have such a supportive environment for both our children and our family as a whole, teachers
214. I am not sure if they do anything
215. Pays for swimming or bus payment. Would never see a chlld left out.We share uniforms.
216. I haven't heard any yet
217. It's definitely a help with books been provided
218. Don't know
219. I dont know
220. n/a
221. Free books and uniform swaps
222. Not known as per my knowledge
223. I don't know
224. Not sure
225. I'm not aware of any supports
226. Uniform swaps
227. I am not sure
228. I am not sure what is available other that the Free school books which is universal
229. Dont know
230. I don't know
231. Not sure, maybe helps to spread out payments of something
232. Book rental
233. Unsure
234. Lunch is provided free in the primary section, school books are free and there isn't a sense of not having access to different occasions because of financial differences. The secondary school offers no support that we can access.
235. Assists with uniforms & had a book rental scheme
236. Discount for siblings. Doesn't put pressure on parents. Subsusides meals & trips.
237. Don't know
238. Open door policy
239. Listen
240. Don't know
241. I don't know of anything.
242. I am not aware of any supports in place
243. Break down payments to spread the cost of payments
244. Fundraise
245. Spread the cost of school activities

246. Staff are approachable and helpful with alternative actions and financial help through reducing certain payments.
247. I don't know
248. Give old uniforms to children who cannot afford them
249. I don't know, just started in this school a month ago and so far have not been made aware of any supports offered
250. Don't know
251. Makes it easier to pay installments for fees and other costs. Uniform is reasonable, don't need to buy extras (fancy blazer, scarf etc.) trips are optional. No pressure to contribute to fund raising.
252. In the secondary school (DEIS school) they offer assistance if in need. I don't know details as I haven't contacted the school. Also they make it very easy to include medical card details so book schemes (now funded by dept of Education) were half price. Also free school meals. In the primary school there is no visible offers of support but I know they are there if the parents approach the school. However my daughter has a physical disability and therefore a medical card and they did not deduct money from the book scheme despite it being available. The school are not transparent about money related issues or fundraising done for them.
253. Makes staggered payments
254. Don't know if they do anything.
255. Feeds them, books and
256. They are very understanding and try to provide as much as possible
257. School lunches
258. Don't know
259. Not sure
260. Allowing some freedom on uniform, can be purchased anywhere and not strict on footwear. Have rolled out the free lunch scheme. Infant club which allows for 1 pick up or bus run. Runs extra courses- gymnastics, soccer, plays for kids to try non academic subjects. Parents association actively fundraises to keep costs down.
261. Great parents Association, a simple affordable uniform is an extremely great help(navy tracksuit bottoms, polo shirt and crested jumper) comfortable and affordable, the mobile phone ban kids can try better the other ones fantastic from a financial and mental point
262. Send out requests for uniforms and clothes.....
263. Provision of uniforms, food, homework club, extra educational supports, home school liaison, a safe place for children during school hours with hot plentiful food as well as nutritious snacks..
264. Trying breakfast club and home work clubs and great teachers to help when needed
265. Home school liaison, support with payments.
266. Not sure
267. Provides hot lunches

268. Some kind of help
269. PA holds a preloved uniform sale, school provides hot meals,
270. Uniforms do not have to be crested so can be bought from Dunnes etc. Hot lunches are provided. A used uniform sale is held every year.
271. The free school meals are provided. The reading challenge is great and books are provided free to loan. The playground for all children was a great initiative and no child left out.
272. free meals
273. Help where they can when asked and have a payment plan
274. They give hot lunches, to help mothers with costs of lunches, they help with spare uniforms
275. The PA subsidises activities within the school. Has the free meal initiative in the school. Free book scheme for 2 years.
276. The spreading of payments for extracurricular activities
277. Allowing the child / family to pay voluntary contribution in instalments. All families can avail of this, book scheme support. Free lunches. Hot + cold..
278. School reaches out to request parents come in to discuss what might assist
279. Food supplement
280. Free parents courses, money towards gaelteach, free after school study
281. Free school meals; uniform swaps, hardship funds for school necessities
282. Teacher assigned as a "go to" for support. Free hot food for all, regardless of situation- all equal.
283. Provide free lunches at both break times, also free books
284. They help people with union forms
285. Have told parents if there are issues with payments to contact them
286. School meals, books, class supplies
287. Have a family liaison person
288. Everything
289. Issued a notice they can help with payment for school trips etc if needed
290. Don't know not aware of any support
291. Not sure
292. They help subsidise certain activities or materials for children.
293. Dont know didn't experience it this
294. Don't know.
295. They have breakfast clubs and nurturing environment for them but the waiting list for that is hard to get on
296. A subsidised hot lunch in winter and a wrap or sandwich in Sprng/ Summer...
297. Let's parents pay installments for the school year
298. Have a second hand uniform sale at end of term
299. I'm not sure

300. Offer hot meals everyday, hold second hand uniform sale, book loan, all treated equally. Education supports offered through school.
301. Home school liaison, wide range of free afterschool activities/clubs, uniform swaps
302. School meals, bus service, uniform exchange.
303. Free meals, extra tuition for exam years, uniform swaps
304. Link with outside agencies and dip into the DEID budget for those really struggling with food/uniforms etc
305. uniform swap and hot food, snacks for children in morning also
306. The community come together and help best we can
307. gives lunches
308. Try to keep costs down, are aware of families struggles, have an open door to chat about issues
309. Food, Books, Schools Completion, Liaison, Guidance
310. I'm not sure
311. I am unsure, some children get breakfast club and the recycle school uniform
312. School will help financially with trip away but I know how the schools are struggling for money also
313. Don't know
314. They provide a breakfast and homework club
315. Supplies a hot lunch,
316. Provide free breakfast
317. Not sure
318. I have no idea, I have never heard of them helping anyone but that's doesn't mean they don't I just don't know about it
319. They offer some families that struggle financial support but I fear this can be taken advantage of as some families ref to pay for certain services and presume the school by law is supposed to pay
320. Offers support for extra curricular expenses. Payment options etc
321. Don't know
322. Don't know
323. Hot lunches
324. Not aware of anything yet if any as new to the school
325. Voluntary Contributions
326. Nothing
327. Don't know
328. Messages saying if you struggle to get in touch
329. School meals, supports towards costs if in financial difficulties, book rental
330. They adhere to the national roll out of hot meals, free books, but I don't know of anything else.
331. We are not a deis school but the school provides food, uniforms and before they were free books

- 332. Inclusion in sports, school activities. Not so much books etc anymore as free scheme makes in fairer all across board
- 333. Breakfast and hot dinner, after school homework club. Lots of free lunchtime activities
- 334. Provides lunches and breakfast club, also distribute Tesco Good food bags
- 335. Breakfast mornings / hot meals but my child isn't orally eating and have to supply everything even soya milk.
- 336. I don't know.
- 337. Provide hot lunches
- 338. Donation of school uniform's at the end of each year for families that may need them. School meals I believe are a huge benefit to the children
- 339. Payment options, hot lunches, uniform swap
- 340. Hot meals and educational support
- 341. I don't know
- 342. The school endeavours to reduce cost barriers for everyone by things like their uniform policy, encouragement of snapshots (which is also good for the environment), tries to limit voluntary contribution, their attitude spills into extra curricular school related activities, for example 5 euro limits to birthday presents. Although there are supports available I suspect parents may not wish to identify their struggles out of shame so may not avail of them choose not to
- 343. Try to find second hand uniforms to donate to those families. School has a Check & Connect program every morning and have some snacks and fruit
- 344. Am Unsure.
- 345. I'm not sure
- 346. Streamlined the uniform recently to make it more affordable and has same uniform for PE and non PE days. Book lending schemes. Home school liaison person in place. Encourage parental involvement in the school during school time. Breakfast club. School lunches.
- 347. Free hot lunches, pre-loved uniforms, subsidised activities
- 348. Smaller classes, good resources and used as required. Supply good nutritious lunches
- 349. Uniform swops. You can speak to school if difficulties paying for stuff
- 350. Free uniform, food, Hcsl officer
- 351. The PA arrange school trips and sports and fund them mostly
- 352. hot school dinners, free books.
- 353. Secondary school Provide lunch/ dinner free. Primary school doesn't do anything
- 354. They have a food programme that families struggling can sign up to. Hot healthy lunches provided and books provided. Second hand school uniform sale and second hand communion wear sale.
- 355. Cover the cost of school trips, uniforms, activities

356. Daughters school lunch but food it very unhealthy Crosshaven girls school my daughter does nt eat it because it's so unhealthy
357. Not sure
358. I don't know other than the lunches given to everyone without discriminating
359. Makes sure they get access to food and additional teaching including homework clubs.
360. Not sure, as we have never asked for help, or were aware we could
361. Offer installment payments
362. Easy with payment schedules. Hot lunches. Offers of uniforms.
363. Fundraising
364. Money paid by families for art supplies and photocopying is used to cover families that can not contribute for these supply fees.
365. Offers help if they can't afford activities like swimming, music lessons done in the school
366. No idea
367. Supports them with paying annual book scheme, provides 2 week's free summer camp, provides wholesome lunches and breakfasts, supports families who can't pay for school trips, does bot do a lot of fundraising in the school so parents do not feel pressure to do ate multiple times during the year.
368. No sure
369. free books, soon to have hot lunches
370. They have the hot lunches that are now provided which helps. I am sure if the parents asked for help that the teachers and principal would help in anyway they could
371. Unsure. Only started primary school a few weeks ago so unsure of all the supports available yet!
372. provide Hot meals.
373. Not sure
374. School lunch
375. They all get lunches, which is a huge help financially
376. Very helpful if struggling to pay something.
377. Payment plans
378. I don't know
379. Provides hot school lunches
380. You can pay the any fees or voluntary contributions in installments.
381. They have some schemes you can apply for or pay fees off throughout the year rather than in one payment.
382. I do not know
383. School meals, books, payment plans,
384. I don't know
385. I am not aware of the school providing such support to families with financial struggles.

386. When a payment is requested there are usually notes attached stating if there is a problem paying to contact the school.
387. I don't know
388. Free books
389. Kids get free books, not aware of any other aids
390. Don't force families to pay voluntary contributions that are far too high
391. The offer alternative methods of payment for parents who may be struggling financially. They ease the cost of paying for uniforms by keeping a store of donated uniforms from other parents.
392. I don't know
393. They give unclaimed uniforms away for free at the start of the year and uniform is considerably priced too. They provide the free book scheme.
394. Extra sports and music classes
395. Primary school yes, not sure about secondary school.
396. Not gone through with the situation
397. They provide hot lunches
398. Only support the school provides is extra help with reading with a support teacher and meals. However, meals are not very basic and do not cater to child who may have sensory needs the option should be given for the parent to pick the weekly meals for the child rather than a meal go to waste if they child has struggles eating it. An option should be giving to pick simpler meals. It would be better for a child to eat blander foods rather than a meal go to waste.
399. After school clubs and groups. Classes for parents also.
400. Free meals, free books, bus for medical card holders, subsidised buses/swimming etc
401. The school asks all families for a voluntary contribution at the start of the year, however clearly states that if there is any financial difficulty there is no expectation to pay.
402. Very supportive with parents and children
403. Reduced family Contribution, staggered payments
404. I don't know
405. Not sure
406. Community engagement, many supports for children especially ones with additional needs
407. Breakfast club, hot lunch
408. Hot lunch, breakfast, school tour
409. Home liaison help, don't chase for money & provide hot school lunches
410. Breakfast club and school lunch helps with the cost of food at the moment
411. Unsure of specifics but they are very supportive in general
412. Not sure
413. If a fee cannot be paid, they offer to have a conversation with you regarding same
414. I'm not sure, too embarrassed to ask

415. I know there is a school liaison officer. As a DEIS school, breakfast and lunches are provided. Standardizing the uniform helps.
416. Nothing special that I am aware of.
417. Don't know
418. My word can even explain infact the school have really try their best with children with less privilege, such as free uniform, books,foods and many other benefits am so overwhelmed with this.
419. They do everything they possibly can, from providing lunch, parent classes and clubs, after school sports and clubs for kids,kids with additional needs are met with very limited resources, most of all, the principal and teachers are walking saints that encourage the kids and parents to strive for better.
420. Breakfast Club & Hot Lunches
421. Hot meals
422. Speak to Principle on school contribution costs
423. Provides free breakfast, provides free lunch, Not having the school crest on the school uniform has helped financially.
424. School meals. Breakfast club. Lunch meals. Open communication between school & parents. Free book scheme
425. home school liaison is excellent. School accommodates part payments for sports/extra stuff and does not exclude kids who don't pay
426. Book Rental Scheme, Hot Lunch, Free extra curricular activities etc.
427. Keeps costs down. School trips are not overly expensive. It offers payment plans for activities and voluntary contributions if needed. The principal encourages parents to contact him if they have difficulties making a payment to the school.
428. Provides free second hand uniform usually from lost property
429. Breakfast packs and hot meals
430. Stationary costs
431. Tesco food bag, overlook not payment of swimming fees, school tour fees and secure free trips, provides fruit and snacks to 'top up' breakfast or lunch
432. Offers to pay for trips, books etc
433. I don't know to be honest. Maybe delivering a hot lunch most day, providing a good learning environment with adequate heating, friendly staff, fun learning activities.
434. Don't know
435. I do not know. They havent been transparent about it
436. Offer free meal scheme
437. SCP offers free summer camps; homework club; breakfast club. Does not put pressure on struggling families for fees. Events organised for parents by HSCL.
438. I'm not sure as it's not spoken about or ever mentioned.
439. Uniform sales
440. I don't know
441. AIDS financially if necessary - some pupils given longer to pay for trips etc

- 442. Free breakfast club
- 443. Free dinners
- 444. School completion - know what parents can't afford voluntary money contributions and don't follow up and insist people pay
- 445. Grants Free uniforms
- 446. School hot lunches are a great addition
- 447. School uniform is navy tracksuit and red polo only, crest is €2 and sewn on by parent, no restrictions on shoes (so you can shop around for both) all stationary is provided, all books are provided, kids are fed in school. Voluntary contribution not called voluntary, also discussed directly with parents rather than using child as a go between (I was made to feel very financially insecure over this as a child myself)
- 448. I don't know about financial support, only about wellbeing support they are very helpful.
- 449. Payment plans

Q8. What additional support could your child's school offer to help children from families with financial struggles and other hardships?

- 1. More free activities
- 2. Spreading out payment for start of school costs.
- 3. Breakfast club / lunch club
- 4. Schools budgets are already tight, it has to come from the department
- 5. Subsidised payments for parents at the start of a school year, extra mandatory activities eg swimming etc. Communicate more with parents who may be experiencing financial hardship
- 6. Its not up to the school to financially support families, its up to the families and the government to do so...leave the school budget for all children equally
- 7. Homework club breakfast club
- 8. A clearer indication of where our contribution is going, allowing parents to pay in installments
- 9. NO VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
- 10. Dinners breakfast club well being class
- 11. Providing clubs after school
- 12. Change to tracksuit only uniform. Remove voluntary Contribution
- 13. at present, uniforms are branded and available from a single shop only. Generic uniforms should be in place.
- 14. Arrange a food bank
- 15. Payment plan
- 16. Not sure
- 17. Abolish the voluntary contributions
- 18. Fee waver
- 19. Breakfast club homework club better link with neps

20. Help for single parent family
21. I'm not sure but I'm certain they would help the best they could.
22. afterschool club perhaps
23. Let all parents know what these supports.
24. Advertising help with fees and school equipment swaps
25. Hot meals programme, saving funds to spread out the cost of additional things such as school tour or paid pe classes
26. grants for kids for school trips etc
27. financial help for uniforms and tablets etc
28. I am fully in favour of non branded uniform, however our school for example has recently brought in branded shorts(I feel its a slippery slope). I know of other schools with all of the uniform branded as there are enough parents that are presumably financially secure and so happy to leave the uniform as is. This not the case for every parent in the school but they have no choice. Maybe instead of it being a recommendation from the Department of Education it should be made mandatory to have non branded uniforms.
29. I would like to think instead of all students getting meals that could go to waste, that those families in need could have credit added to the lunch program that the school offers, other students wouldnt know if the food was provided for free or paid for.
30. breakfast club, afterschool club that provide snacks and do some sport/art/music activities
31. After school options - as currently the after school in my children school finish up at 4:30 which is a quite difficult time for full-time working parents
32. Reduce the cost of school fees books are free but the other costs are just as high
33. If my children needed play or art therapy the school would try to facilitate that.
34. NO FEE / BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED
35. Extend hot lunches to more schools, subsidy some after school activities,
36. It has to assess each presenting with a financial need individually.
37. Trips out during the day perhaps once a month to local places, beaches, parks, playground. Some children may not get to go with their peers.
38. Non branded uniform. Access to after school clubs and study free of charge.
39. Uniforms that don't have crests, different colours on sleeves etc do that you must buy from specialist shops and can't do dunnes etc
40. After school activities and homework and study support one to one if necessary.
41. Discount on tours stationary
42. Knowing that a child suffering from financial hardship can not afford the same educational equipment as others
43. Help with uniforms and stationary and shoes/ sports shoes
44. School should receive more funds to be able to help those families in need.
45. free hot lunches, afterschool service
46. Make it clearer what help can be given
47. Second hand uniforms or have a tracksuit only policy instead of full uniforms, shoes, ties etc

48. Breakfast club, afterschool activities. More focus on health & wellbeing
49. We could be offered a subsidy toward private assessments.
50. Hot meals, provide affordable afterschool care.
51. Have a generic uniform that you see a badge on to so you can afford a second uniform to wash during the week plus generic pe clothes
52. Uniform bundle offers. Full tracksuit for 10% cheaper
53. They are doing great, providing links to webinars for parents re anxiety in teenagers etc, have a parents club which is a great link if any classes can be made
54. Free afterschool
55. This is hard to articulate but using examples from other cultures in scenarios would be helpful. Highlighting the 'value' of Roma mothers and their incredible skills would be lovely, demonstrating how those skills may be transferrable so that Roma girls (particularly) can see that there may be opportunities for them beyond becoming a wife, mother, housekeeper. For example, Roma mothers live on the edge of society with a very limited budget and practically no societal supports and yet, they bring up large families of (reasonably) happy and healthy children. That takes SKILLS, so what are those skills and how can they be shown to be of huge value.
56. No requirement for payment of contribution however some parents can afford so this is hard to manage
57. We have free lunches that's it
58. Meals, extra class...
59. After school clubs, access to extra curricular activities that can be very expensive
60. They could state it in an email or say it rather than it happening after the situation clearly having become embarrassing because of inability to pay
61. Inform them of what is available and how to apply.
62. free lunches
63. School dinners ... more sna resource
64. Hardship fund, generic uniforms,
65. No requisite fee, financial help for swimming, school tours, etc, free school bus, help pay for uniforms, after school club
66. For family with numerous children to offer free bus to school, and reduce the pays for school
67. Hot food at breakfast and lunch. I see so many hungry children (I'm a teacher) they cannot concentrate and are not developing
68. The food box during COVID was so helpful. This summer you would need to be interviewed by the resource centre so most families didn't do it
69. Breakfast clubs, afterschool clubs, book clubs, Lego and board game clubs, music lessons
70. I do not know
71. Provide adequate services in the first place so parents are always asked to fund school needs that the department is not providing, education should be the same for all, deis and non deis.

72. Allow for cheaper uniform providers ie. Dunnes/tesco dark pants etc
73. There's been no school dentist care. I have had to pay privately as my husband and I work but we struggle but not entitled to anything for our children including assessment for Dyslexia. I had to pay privately. Financial struggles also hit working families.
74. Reduce the cost of uniforms or allow generic uniforms
75. Homework club with after school meal
76. Not place as much emphasis on uniform policies
77. Cover bus fares or trip expenses for tours. A uniform swap shop would be good for growing students.
78. open a special education class/unit, provide free breakfasts and lunches, extend free schoolbooks scheme to all students, provide access to technology, study aids etc, help new families to integrate into their communities, do away with two types of uniforms in primary schools (traditional uniform plus a PE kit)
79. Field trips to places that families may not have available to them at no cost to families.
80. One way to help would be to choose between a uniform or tracksuit that way you wouldn't have to buy 2 uniforms and 2 tracksuits with a pair of shoes and a pair of trainers for each child. Some schools have introduced this already
81. Single parents not in receipt of government support should get help. The government do not account for outgoings single working parents pay such as mortgage, car loan, petrol, bills. It's a very unfair system which encourages single parents not to work.
82. Voucher for clothes/shoes?
83. School lunches
84. Not sure
85. Cover cost of the outing child isn't left feeling excluded and disappointed
86. Free after school tutorials
87. Offer more arts-based activities, particularly trips to see shows/exhibitions
88. low cost extra curricular activities
89. If a school knows that a child is in a position of financial hardship, they should provide uniforms, school books and fund any school extras such as trips or after school sports. Most Parent Associations would be happy to help with this.
90. The school have both branded uniform and tracksuit adding huge expense I don't agree with both, uniforms are not really required kids need comfort and warmth
91. Tin whistle, swimming. Football
92. School lunches
93. Don't know
94. Do the lunches scheme., there is a significant charge This year for activities . I'm very happy with the school ethos being educate together but it is more expensive to go there .
95. Perhaps a contribution towards the cost of school tours for families that cannot afford it.
96. Pay school fees weekly instead of all together, payment options
97. A hardship fund
98. No idea

99. The hot food is coming soon and that will help
100. Meals for kids, help with back to school costs etc
101. Cover costs of material and activities
102. Keep things simple
103. None
104. School meals, more activities available in school after school hours to ensure every child can part take in extra curricular activities.
105. Not have a crested uniform, allow for a school tracksuit
106. Payment plans for things. Able to pay things when able etc
107. Help with cost of transport parents have to pay for extra circulation activities
108. The 'booklist' charges at the beginning of the school year seem to assume that every family has extra money. Our school charges €140 per child for photocopying, PE and yoga lessons, digital licenses and other extras. There really should be no charge to parents for extras such as yoga and PE as PE should be taught by the teachers
109. Not ask for money for photocopies, 2-3 trips a year.
110. On-site easily accessible and affordable Sibling hour and child care.
111. Despite best efforts to support I feel they have little understanding of Autism
112. Uniforms are branded and can only be purchased in certain shops. 2 uniforms used during week PE and formal..this has cost implications
113. More flexibility for cheaper uniform
114. They could run a second hand uniform bank/sale/swap meet.
115. Use tablets
116. Free uniform
117. Limit tech items needed to be bought by parents
118. Generic uniforms
119. I am not sure
120. They used to have a budget savings scheme, that was really good
121. In school meals and less financial assistance from families. For example, our school requests €75 per child for school supplies and services their example was photocopying.
122. Transport
123. Don't charge for activities during the school day, get rid of the need for school Jumpers with a crest
124. Counseling, psychological therapies
125. Allow all kids participate in extra curricular, ask for reasonable voluntary contribution but don't prevent kids from extra curriculums because of parents income.
126. Teaching and support to assist children struggling with fitting in.
127. school uniforms
128. Homework clubs
129. More positively toward the child
130. Uniform swapping
131. Not sure

132. Less fees.
133. Clothing and footwear swap days. Waiving voluntary contributions and payments for digital licences.
134. Art and play therapy
135. Make the "voluntary contribution " anonymous.
136. Not sure. Q1 is vague. The answer is "yes I know" but the school is not DEIS
137. Hot lunches and aim assessments
138. Transport links
139. Offer breakfast/lunch. Offer counselling to children who may need it.
140. Free breakfast and homework clubs; ask for less in terms of voluntary contributions, various charity events etc.
141. Free food
142. Uniforms are a ridiculous prices available from a boutique totally unnecessary the extra PE uniform cost is also very high very
143. Free new uniforms and tracksuits, help with stationary
144. Access to DEIS Plus supports such as the City Connects Programme that is being delivered in 10 schools in the north east inner city in Dublin - where every single child in a DEIS schools is reviewed and a bespoke plan is put in place to meet their individual strengths and needs.
145. Offer scholarship programs to kids to achieve more from. disadvantaged backgrounds
146. N/a
147. There should be more government grants to subsidise costs of buses for educational experiences away from the school grounds so that it is not dependent on the time resources of the parents of the school to try to fundraise these costs.
148. Have an option to pass on uniforms. Reduce the cost of trips, speech & drama should be included in the curriculum & not just for those who can afford it.
149. It's not all about economic capital..there is already free meals and free books. Other hardships can be addressed with a Deis plus programme of intensive intervention and multi agency supports. Social disadvantage begets ed disadvantage yet mental health services, addiction, crime, intergenerational unemployment are causally related. Social workers and psychologists should be full time in the most disadvantaged band 1 schools. Better monitoring of outcomes.
150. All school activities should be free of charge
151. Free lunches, after school clubs and activities for free
152. Second hand uniforms and iPad subsidy as humm payment plans have high interest rates meaning the poorest pay more than families that can pay up front
153. Don't know
154. Hardship fund
155. Sna, special class, educational resources, sensory breaks
156. I don't know

157. Reduce school costs, provide meals etc.
158. Not sure
159. Breakfast club
160. Assessment of educational needs and therapy as a result of same
161. Provide more opportunities for children to access assessments.
162. I'm unsure
163. Breakfast and afterschool clubs. Non uniform. More awareness of children with financial issues.
164. Think of cost implications when planning trips, making uniforms comfortable and generic. which can be bought in Dunnes etc Instead of Crested overpriced products. removing a lot of charges in administration charge. Less pressure for fundraisers eg use apps like primary school for donations Instead of children feeling pressure to have money in front of peers.
165. I think all schools could offer a uniform swap day. Whereby old good quality uniform items are donated. A shop dedicated to this in Dublin would be a good idea I think.
166. Prepare parents with supports that may be available to them in sending their children to college
167. school is struggling itself, deis schools get way more support, very little support for gaelscoil
168. Better discounts for family with one or more children in the school. Fees for the year.
169. Increase services from the HSE regarding speech and language and AON access
170. Payment plans
171. Uniforms should not be created and ideally should be a standard tracksuit not two uniforms being main plus PE
172. Hot lunches and breakfast clubs. More SLT services
173. I don't know any other ways a school can contribute as to what they already do well my school anyway
174. Provide free access to child psychology, SLT etc
175. Free lunches like other schools. , should be for all schools
176. Get rid of the "voluntary" contributions
177. Discount after school care
178. school fees
179. Breakfast for children. Quite a few of the kids in my child's class are sent to school hungry.
180. Summer program
181. Hot meal programme
182. Provide meals
183. In school meals. Head lice pack where Families are supplied with 1 or 2 treatments to remove headlice on notifying the school. Offer school badges for jumpers for Families can purchase cheaper jumpers in Dunnes or Tesco for example.

184. The school needs to stop demanding money all the time, like raffles, red envelope days, collections for teacher's end of year gifts. These are random asks for money at least every month without concern for the embarrassment of children when they don't bring in the money
185. Financial education. Guides of good nutrition for tight budgets. Increase exercises opportunity at school. Decrease of competitive activities.
186. I think the school are going great work to help families who are struggling.
187. I don't know
188. None
189. After school homework club, breakfast club
190. Uniform could be streamlined. Currently we have to purchase a full uniform and tracksuit and most likely 2 of each. This could be streamlined to tracksuit only which is fit for purpose.
191. By means-test, some families can be exempt in paying for class activities highlighted above or extra calicular activites offered by the school.
192. more opportunity for parents to meet up
193. Supply lunches and reduce costs of activities
194. I don't know
195. Free sports training
196. Unclear how to support lower income families in the school through the school, unclear about arrangements for feeding children, or providing opportunities to do afterschool activities. Would be keen to see that a school hardship fund was maintained.
197. Enroll in meals for schools
198. More SNA support, music , drama and sports activities
199. Homework club, hot meals
200. Uniform adjustments or swap/exchange, so called "voluntary" fees to be adjusted to family circumstances etc.
201. provision of meals
202. Breakfast club
203. my child is not qualitifed for this uniform and shoes allowance, i hope all children in this country will qualified no matter how much the family earn, or they add to their chils benefits which is like a voucher that can spend for a certain shop here. So its up to the parents when they will use it.
204. I don't know
205. Vouchers for local supermarkets
206. School uniform collection. Kids grow very quickly if they could even ask parents who no longer need outgrown uniforms that they send them into the school and can be distributed to maybe children who need them but parents can't afford
207. Open after school care till 5:30pm for working family's who struggle to pay for childcare

208. offer reduced costs on after school activities, school trips etc for those on lower means (perhaps means tested), make a maximum spending amount on markets etc for children etc
209. I don't know
210. Having an after school, so parents can work full time
211. Especially when a family have a number of child that the adopt and reduced payment or fee for every additional child instead of a blanket fee per child
212. More SNAs, being more neuroaffirmative, practicing actual inclusion
213. Diagnosis and clubs and homework clubs for those who struggle there an extra expense and your kids want to go then u can buy less food and struggle more.
214. I don't know the full extent they offer as I feel it's probably discreet and so I don't know.
215. Free after school activities and making school trips and fees free to those who qualify for a medical card.
216. They can arrange some after school games or some activities as above at free of cost for such kids to get them developed.
217. I don't know how else the school can help in this case?
218. Free uniforms and writing materials
219. I think our school does enough
220. School snacks
221. Start a community within the school where parents who have "special" skills eg music, languages etc give mini modules on a voluntary bases that all kids can access to removed stigma and give opportunities to all kids
222. get more bus and after school services
223. Free meals cheaper uniform
224. Lots of bus trip expenses
225. Senior cycle material similar to junior cycle this year
226. Better quality of food, insuring one nutritious food.when gathering founds for charities outside the school, maybe they should do for a founding in the school for children in needs. Makes short daily mindfulness exercises a part of the mandatory curriculum. Cut down on screen time overused in schools as those children are already overexposed to those outside of school, which all the side effects that goes with it. Schools use screens for « movement breaks » where they could do sports in a yard or in a hall, involving interactions with others, which would be beneficial for those kids in need. An other help for hardship would be for art/play therapy to be available in every schools and depending on the age, have an independent councilor coming regularly for sessions to kids going through hardship (free service). Schools could run more « pass me down » events, with the excuse of suistainibility, families with financial issues could benefit from it and not having to buy clothes or uniforms. Also, having a homework club in schools, where the kids facing hardship or homelessness can go, would be great. Teachers could take turns and do it on a volunteery basis. Or it could be integrated part of their schedules and be paid by the school.

- 227. I'm not sure
- 228. Lunches from provider approved by parents not the school.
- 229. After school for one hour for juniors and longer for seniors. Breakfast club with healthy options. Cpd for teachers on trauma based teaching and more SEN training. More hours for resource teaching.
- 230. Support to cover trip costs for families who struggle. These trips are hugely important to these young adults who otherwise might not have the opportunity to go.
- 231. Not charged deposits for books
- 232. Like free homework club
- 233. Off more extra curriculum activities
- 234. Summer camps are expensive, maybe provide support to families during the holidays to pay costs of summer camps. School tours are expensive, maybe provide financial aid to the families that need it.
- 235. Free after school study area. have more resource hours and a dedicated liason officer
- 236. Homework clubs, subsidised/free trips, access to more 2nd hand uniforms,
- 237. Dont blame the child if homework is late or undone. Dont blame the child for being late to school. Make sure the child gets a bit of one on one time. Without the child feeling like they are different/separate from the rest of the class. No need for crested uniforms.
- 238. Free transport to off site activities, free swimming lessons, school lunches, free afterschool programming, reduced price uniforms
- 239. I don't know
- 240. They have not shared any information on this
- 241. Catered lunches that some schools have could help some families.
- 242. I'm not sure as I luckily I don't have struggles or hardship
- 243. Reasonable accommodations for disabilities
- 244. Cheaper uniforms less costs on families for activities
- 245. No financial contribution
- 246. From a small country school and maybe one - to - one with the families. School has an open door policy within reason not sure if its used
- 247. I don't know how the school get to know, if a family struggles financially? I would rather not eat than ask any help from anyone.
- 248. Breakfast club, a fund for school trips etc that covers those who cannot afford them (and allows access to that with dignity)
- 249. maybe breakfasts for kids
- 250. a breakfast club maybe
- 251. The opportunity to get involved in sport. There was no emphasis put on it in school.
- 252. The free book scheme is fantastic and I am so grateful to it and I know if the children get wet going to school in poor weather conditions the school will give them a change of uniform of dry socks so they are not sitting in wet clothes.
- 253. Breakfast club. Homework club. Drama sports after School

254. Offer music or sport lessons for free.
255. Involve in all activities.
256. My children are not in a deis school . I feel all children should be able to avail of food in the morning and lunch times
257. Support for purchase of uniform/school fees
258. Try giving them help anywhere possible
259. Not ask us to pay the contribution fee, stop forcing to spend 60 euro on a school jacket that is thin and has no hood, completely unsuitable for winter and rain, yet no other jacket is allowed. Stop making us buy expensive ipads, should be school provided.
260. free lunches, sporting activities
261. Free dinners
262. Provide healthy food
263. Subsidised meals; non-branded uniform
264. Provide afterschool to facilitate working parents
265. Extend after school/homework club to 6pm
266. School lunch scheme, breakfast club, full stationary sets within classroom e.g scissors print sticks
267. Soo above comments
268. Free lunches. By making it a pleasant place to go
269. Parents who struggle should be supported around costs of trips and activities. Schools should ask for finance with time for people to respond.
270. Lunches
271. Free School Meals
272. Sliding scale payments
273. Initiative to affordable cycle to school schemes initiative. Afgordable pre and pist school child care for all primaryschool children. Free after schoolclubs and home qork clubs for primaryschool children. Free supportgroupsforpost primarychildren for varioussubjects after school. Affordable extra curriculumactivities like music and life skills like swimmingas part of their education at earlierae..
274. Have access to flexible payment options
275. Not sure tbh without the schools getting grants from government to help them
276. Lunch program , school bus
277. School uniforms, books school tours
278. Not place pressure on families by introducing non educational school trips such as skiing etc. have devices such as iPads made available through rental scheme or provided for free. Subsidised canteen or lunches to ensure students are having their nutritional needs met, regardless of family income.
279. Breakfast club
280. Free lunches for secondary schools. Free books for senior cycle students. No exam fees.
281. No fees

282. Healthy lunches for all kids so no discrimination
283. Pre and after school care, class start and finish times should be the same for all classes
284. Some children unable to go on TY trips due to financial constraints
285. Communicate supports available
286. Don't know
287. Not sure
288. help with school costs
289. Breakfast club
290. Lunch and breakfast club
291. Stop collecting voluntary contribution, stop charging for photocopying, insurance etc, stop charging 50-60 per child to do drama, stop charging parents for kids to do sports Ireland programme-get the teachers to teach PE etc
292. Not charge for every trip
293. Don't know
294. Yes
295. Be aware of how to point families in the direction of help from bodies put in place to do so and the services they offer.
296. Access to assessments. My child should not be a number!!! Also I believe just a PE uniform is enough for primary school children, paying for 2 uniforms extra cost, school uniform is itchy and uncomfortable
297. Second hand book and uniform donations or if not using books using lap tops rent them out to children
298. Not having unnecessary trips e.g. ski trips
299. uniform supplement; help with extra materials like ingredients for home economics;
300. Possibly free school meals
301. I don't know
302. They can give them free books and pay half of the money for school trips
303. At a minimum be open and upfront about medical card discounts that are on offer. Help with cost of uniforms if this is an issue. Make sure children are not hungry in school
304. Free transport to sporting events/ days out
305. Free Lunches
306. Scrap uniforms/ tracksuits/coats and crests for comfortable generic uniforms!. Paid gaeltacht in summer. Smaller class sizes, more resource teachers.
307. Lower cost uniform options, (less over-priced crested items or opportunity to buy crests for lower priced generic items). The books and supplies were astronomical before the DOE book scheme.
308. Lunches
309. Less activities that require payment last minute. Cheaper options in relation to uniforms
310. Sports activities

311. Perhaps removing the 'late register' - some parents struggle to get kids to multiple schools on time and now with the additional parking challenges this is even more so. Easily available information on free activities, free school trips/activities/lunches, before and after school care options
312. Afterschool support/breakfast club for early drop offs, uniform swaps.
313. School lunches, paid trips/school tours
314. Make less changes to the school uniforms.....adding extra costs onto parents just because the school are not able to collect control a minority that dont abide school rules.
315. Removal of uniforms whos purchase is restricted to specific stores and can be costly. No school crests or an option to purchase a crest at a nominal fee and iron or sew it on to clothing.
316. I don't know
317. Payment plans for bills, subsidised school tours.
318. Not sure
319. Eliminate the extra costs such as swimming and music generation seems as they are part of the curriculum
320. homework support group, english support, breakfast club
321. An option to pay fees etc over the course of the year.
322. Maybe have a scheme to help spread the cost over a school year eg. Swimming fee, school tour any other extra, break down into a monthly fee. Providing more fresh fruit snacks throughout the day. Having a used school uniform swap shop. More cake sales to raise money for extra funds.
323. Not ask for voluntary contribution
324. Introduce various activities during school times.e.g.dance,singing,musical instruments to help the child with worries and anxieties
325. Give more notice when money is needed .
326. If there was a charity shop or some form we could buy second hand uniforms, clothes, runners and other accessories as a fraction of shop cost.
327. Homework club. Have access to uniform and other school supplies during the year. Children grow and need shoes for school at different times of the year other than September.
328. Homework club with teachers.
329. Inform support for those with multiple children in school but yet cant avail of the back to school allowance.
330. Grinds to maximise educational attainment and achievements
331. Free lunches, uniform swap shop. Courses for parents.
332. Money off costs
333. Keep the supports available.
334. Unsure
335. After school activities so parents can work longer eg drama, chess etc

336. Tracksuit should do was uniform all week cost of dressing a child can be expensive without having to buy both uniforms & Pe clothes
337. See exactly what they need or benefit from
338. Rental of devices, rather than having to buy them outright
339. Not sure
340. Don't know
341. Everything for free, or other parents can help to give support as well
342. Free schooling
343. Uniforms & PE gear & ipads at a reduced cost (subsidised by the school)
344. Lower the cost of things where they can.
345. Don't know
346. After school care
347. Proper supports for children with additional needs without a diagnosis
348. Have more sna teachers to support children when they are needed.
349. I dont know
350. Longer notice for payments payment plan options and a sinking fund for the child a parent could pay into that the school can use for the child's trips or other payments that they request
351. Hold a group grinds session for those who struggle with certain subjects outside of support classes. Perhaps run an evening session a week coming up to exams.
352. Removal of requirement for 2 full uniforms (1 x tracksuit and 1 x formal all crested and expensive), walking buses to/from school, drop in coffee mornings to help address social isolation
353. Have a payment scheme that you can pay what you want as now you can only pay the full amount online
354. I think pressure put on parents to buy graduation dress that are very expensive challenging and pressure of debts being planned miles away. feel school should not wash it hands of debts/graduation and should support class reps to pick venue closer. I worry that some year something may go wrong and we all grieve that we should have done things with more unity between students and school. I was disappointed that non of teachers attended school debts. I feel it would reflect better if school was more involved in debts/venue, it would alleviate worries for parents.
355. Pay towards buses for school trips
356. Links with Resource centres and SVP
357. perhaps a school bag swap, along with uniform swap. some free music classes or perhaps free grinds
358. Speech and language. Occupational therapy. Costly outings. More extracurricular activities within the school setting.
359. Our school has hot meals which is a huge bonus
360. Lunches
361. Uniform and lunch supplements

- 362. Continuing with hot meals, less of a requirement for formal uniform
- 363. grants/ scholarships/ IT items
- 364. Offer second hand sports /music equipment and uniforms second hand
- 365. Extra curricular activities
- 366. There is always something that needs payment - swimming lessons €115 which are compulsory, after school activity €75, school fees €115. Random other expenses that pop up thru the year. School fees should cover all these extra costs. If something for school is compulsory it should be free.
- 367. Free lunch, pay for after school activities
- 368. I am unsure
- 369. Not have 2 different compulsory school jackets 2 years in a row. Get rid of crested uniform as per Dept of Ed circular
- 370. Make them aware of what help is available
- 371. See if activities could be paid in installments
- 372. School lunches, breakfast clubs, after school services. Our school wouldnt let us use the school for a coding course being run by the NPC saying their insurance wouldn't cover it. Parents really wanted the course but it couldn't go ahead as there was nowhere to hold it. a coding
- 373. More SET teachers would be great as so many children need more time to grasp something like maths, big classes means the teacher moves on quicker than a child is able or more SNA support
- 374. Parent support not necessarily financial but pastoral.
- 375. Parent education
- 376. Of course
- 377. Uniform grants, hot meals for whole school not just junior side of school
- 378. Free extra curricular programs, after school study etc.
- 379. Single parents with no support yes there are couples where one wage comes in and mother stays at home.....burden is eased on worker as everything is done for them. A single mother (high%) who works full time and has no support is burnt out.....no regard and treated like a couple.
- 380. Advance notice of costs. Alternatives that are free or set up easy weekly payment plans
- 381. Unsure
- 382. All children should be treated the same - food, trips & extra curricular activities should be provided free of charge - families may not know about or avail of supports meaning the child still goes without
- 383. Stop asking for voluntary contributions and issuing reminders for those that don't pay (this doesn't imply voluntary), liaise with parents in relation to activities/trips that have a cost associated with them before asking students to express an interest.
- 384. Excursion free

385. The school my children go to are mainly working families. We get no extra resources, no afterschool, no lunches. We have to fundraise for everything which puts extra pressure on families. Children struggling also have very little support and it's up to parents to find support outside the class, i.e. pay for grinds
386. Books, but not sure for other stuff
387. Breakfast club and school lunches
388. Unsure
389. Ensure that the children are not humiliated for not having the correct uniform, not offer uniform choices that are beyond people's means, do not leave children behind who cannot pay for outings.
390. Access to play therapy subsidy
391. Uniform swap. Stationary sale at school. Hot school lunches.
392. Primary and secondary school communicating with each other where families are spread out and understanding what challenges are facing child.
393. Facilitate uniform swap shop to ensure everyone has access to proper uniform and help with cost,
394. Ensure they can supply soya milk instead of regular milk. Coordinate seasonal gifts for school gifts and events
395. Lunches
396. It would be absolutely wonderful if the school started the hot lunches. Food has become so expensive so making healthy lunch boxes for a few children is actually really costly these days
397. Pay for school trips
398. More funding for schools, no annual school fee to parents,
399. Free after school activities like music lessons and paying for after school care
400. I don't know
401. Our school is not in a particularly deprived area, I think government funding would be better spent in areas of deprivation.
402. more small class groups for social skills, professionals available to schools eg CAMHS as these are a distance away to schools
403. Extra activities after school, mental support
404. Unsure
405. The hot school lunch for post primary
406. After school club, free bus, no charge for photocopying, etc
407. I think they provide enough
408. There should be DEIS like supports in Non DEIS schools like SCP and HSCL. Plus extra funding for some extracurriculars to provide to the school.
409. Actually ensure money raised by parents council spent towards buses & therefore includes all kids (as lots of working parents can't take their kids to events & others can not afford buses)

410. Have a smart tracksuit and runners only as uniform. School coat /shoes optional once the right colour. l
411. Not sure as not aware of any help in this area
412. Hot meals in school
413. Reduced costs of additional activities and school tours
414. Lunch. Various payment options
415. Get rid of admin fees and photocopying fees. Dept of Education should really be paying for that !
416. Breakfast club & homework clubs to allow parents work
417. Breakfast and after school, family payments
418. More SNA's and funding of permanent teaching posts.
419. Not a school issue but there's no bus service.
420. Healthy snacks for kids activities after school to support parents to work more
421. Not sure
422. Access to homework support; more one to one interaction to figure out who's in fact struggling
423. I believe all schools and school children should get the same funding because if a school has even 1 child that misses out as a result of financial hardship then we have failed as a society.
424. Let families know what is available, and how to get help.
425. Give information
426. Listen not in between .
427. I find it really frustrating that recently the school outsourced an aftercare programme, which can help single working parents continue to support their families.
428. Fundraising
429. Provide a hot meal during the day to ensure any children are not hungry and can concentrate and enjoy school.
430. Teach more Life skill eg learn to cycle program
431. Generic non crested uniform..breakfast club subsidy for school tour
432. Give/sell on old chrome books when upgrades are brought in. A lot of families can't afford tablets/laptops for school work.
433. afterschool, breakfast club, no obligatory financial contributions towards school materials
434. Maybe offer breakfast to children who arrive early? Uniforms are great though having a second hand service may also help reduce cost
435. Option to provide uniform, extra school transportation
436. Free after school grinds or supports to help children struggling academically
437. Less pressure for fundraising
438. It's enough support given
439. Payment plans

440. reduced rates for activities specially when two or more attending to allow them to be accessible. Safe as you go programme, first term back to school after buying new equipment and uniform we have swimming for 6 weeks, 3 children and different blitzes run my post primary schools so bus fare required for 2 children. These events happen every year at the same time. some families also have personal committments at these times like house/car insurance.
441. Stop asking for money, school bake day we live in Dublin 9 schools in Donaghmede asking me to buy cakes for them to sell. I don't buy cakes for myself nevermind for a school.
442. Generic uniforms, no crests on jumpers or tartan skirts, just plain uniforms
443. Lunches, stop looking for money every week for something it gets on top of me!
444. It's not individual schools it's at government level to help with uniforms and cost of school trips especially in TY.
445. Uniform costs, do away with the voluntary contribution
446. have a uniform swap shop
447. Hot meals, swap uniforms, free activities my school charge for yoga, gymnastics
448. Uniforms cover, day trips funded
449. Not sure
450. free after school activities for skills development - art, music, reading clubs, discussions, drama classes, knitting, other interest groups
451. Provide pencils ,pens ,folders ,white boards ,markers
452. There could be free afterschool for kids that need it or they could organise extra curriculum activities after school.
453. Treat all students equally. Do not supply one child with a tablet and not others who equally struggle with the rigid curriculum
454. The school do as much as possible.
455. Take part in free school meals scheme
456. Child has cancer as parent has cancer, school very unsupportive
457. Drama, STEM classes
458. Confidential opportunity to communicate struggles!
459. At the moment it's okay for me
460. I don't know
461. Extra curriculum activities for after school hours, integrate with clubs for lower rates to join to keep children active, and stimulated to stay off the streets that may lead to trouble due to boredom. It will also take a child out of a home environment that may be hostile.
462. Each case is different but the school and staff are very supportive.
463. As above
464. Consideration with regards planning of school tours, either not choosing expensive tours or clearly stating that they can confidentially support any familiy who might struggle with costs.
465. School transport
466. Provide lunches

- 467. Don't know
- 468. Distribution of free uniforms, school bags and everything needed for school
- 469. Not sure
- 470. For families other than mine of very low income, more out of hours activities
- 471. Educate teachers to spot signs of non physical abuse
- 472. Extra sports
- 473. Not sure
- 474. Perhaps a regular/nominated liason person
- 475. Awareness that not everyone is flush with money. Allow opportunities for participation for children who's parents may not be able to afford activities. Keep activities at reasonable cost
- 476. Waiving of annual school fees!
- 477. Payment plans
- 478. I believe food is provided before study hour after school but I do not know what kind. Perhaps could be more substantial if not a full hot dinner.
- 479. We have no lunch at all provided to children.
- 480. Offer free evening after school activities
- 481. Encouragement and many other benefits in which I can't even explain
- 482. Financial literacy classes for parents,easy to say, harder to do with a very limited income.
- 483. Ask people to donate uniforms/bags their children have out grown at end of year to be offered to others who struggle to provide
- 484. They are doing their best already.
- 485. Lunch, fruit & drinks - water and/or milk, afterschool, as current community afterschools full and private afterschools very expense
- 486. Stop using crested uniforms. Art contributions.
- 487. Maybe a counsellor in school to let children express worries etc
- 488. Breakfast school, exercise breaks, use of school gym
- 489. Nothing I can think of now
- 490. Use the target pupils and run the likes of food banks and uniform donations etc and give to parents directly as to not bring it to others attention. Do it as an all in and only contact the target pupils parents.
- 491. They do enough for pupils and families.
- 492. Breakfast club, breakfast items, offer free fruit and water during break and lunch time
- 493. Buses at winter time to pick kids with no vehicles up in the snow and icy mornings
- 494. Tuition & bus
- 495. More financial support to schools. Optional free lunches supplied to the school
- 496. Reduce costs of afterschool activities
- 497. Reduce costs when possible, no fancy uniforms for all. Reduced fees for tours, school trips ...

498. Provide more free activities in school, everything from swimming lessons to fun & fitness costs a fortune
499. Don't know
500. I don't know
501. Some people struggle to pay admin costs so that could be looked at
502. Additional SCP hours.
503. A breakfast club would make a big difference
504. Speak about it. Have it said if ever in this situation, come talk to us confidentially.
505. Get the hot school meals into the school.
506. Financial assistance
507. Ad hoc payments for school supplies
508. Free extracurricular homework tutoring
509. No need for 2 uniforms get rid of one
510. It's not the school but more department of education- reduction in book grants means parents need to pay more - school requested hot lunches but was rejected and no reason given
511. School ran bus routes for local children
512. Formalised uniform hand me down program, but otherwise, our school is doing great.
513. Ask parents what they would like to part take in ...swimming,playball all extra costs for parents when they might not be able to afford or want. Or already do outside school
514. Maybe free uniforms

Q9. How does your child's school help children attend school?

1. Don't know
2. Unsure.
3. Very little
4. No
5. school is very engaged.
6. I'm not aware of anything the school might so to help children attend school
7. It provides education...thats what its supposed to do...
8. NO HELP
9. Cooperation with parents , encouraging child's well-being by arrendance in school
10. Not really done
11. it doesn't
12. It doesn't
13. School liason officer
14. Special transport
15. Unsure
16. Positive reinforcement of attendance
17. I don't think so

18. I don't know
19. Awards
20. n/a
21. Honestly, they don't. My child is refusing to attend school at least once a week already. This is new
22. I don't know
23. I don't knlw
24. Education welfare and schools completion
25. No known help
26. Keeping track of absences and communicating with parents.
27. Don't know, never had attendance issues
28. No
29. Not sure
30. They make it a fun welcoming place. They would communicate with the family and find a way to help.
31. Apart from the school bus collection. It's really up to parents to help children attend I don't think a school can do much to help children attend. If the child is absent I'm sure they probably get in touch then
32. There are no free resources I'm aware of. But I'm sure they support certain families in the school community.
33. Rewards
34. Don't know
35. Merit system
36. NA
37. It doesn't- the principal said it's not his responsibility- it's a parents responsibility.
38. Morning support group, check and connect group.
39. I don't know
40. Yes
41. I am unsure if supports are available as my child does not miss school
42. They are encouraging and kind to the family
43. It doesnt we are an affluent area.
44. Don't know
45. National hot lunch
46. They listen to what the parent is asking or saying is the problem, they come up with solutions
47. Welcoming environment
48. Staff engage very well with families, for example Roma families, to ensure they are completing the enrolment forms when needed. They follow up and work for transfer to secondary. They advocate for those children they have grown to love (from toddlers to 6th class) as they transition to a secondary school environment where they are just another teenager from a difficult family situation in a big school.

49. Yes - attendance drive annually
50. They ran incentive schemes and prizes last year to help attendance
51. No much
52. Provides free school lunches , its hard to learn om an empty stomach
53. It is in the ethos of the school and attendance is very good and it is a very affluent area
54. Nothing extra that I am aware of
55. get attendance awards end of year
56. School Bus
57. Have interesting lessons with appreciation stickers or something
58. No idea
59. Breakfast Club but it's hard to get staff to work it in one school
60. It doesn't?
61. I do not understand the question
62. It provides free care for young children whos siblings are in the older classes until the finish school an hour later
63. Encourged through attendance competitions and overall good atmosphere
64. Not sure what is meant by this question
65. It doesn't
66. There is a home school liaison officer.
67. Second hand uniform sales
68. Award for not missing any days
69. Attendance drives, certificates & VSWARE points
70. focus on attendance and timekeeping, following up with parents in relation to absenteeism, referrals to TUSLA, providing a safe, welcoming place for children to be and to want to come to, providing counsellors when needed, communication with parents and providing feedback,
71. Lots of fun activities, clubs and extra curricular activities.
72. My kids like school i think maybe because they make it fun at times and the teachers seem to be really nice
73. Unsure...
74. Being supported to children's family
75. I don't know
76. In secondary motivated with reward. In third class. I didn't hear anything about that.
77. Not sure
78. Record absence and inform parents need note from parents
79. NA
80. Attendance awards- I disagree with these as they penalise children with illnesses
81. It doesn't appear to do anything
82. I don't know.
83. Both are happy going in most days
84. Rewards

85. Awareness of individual child
86. They can't if parents can afford to send them
87. I don't think it does
88. Dont know
89. The educate together ethos is more appropriate for children with anxiety , it's more inclusive , it's more collaborative, supports from teachers are more structured
90. Offer sports at lunchtime/afterschool. Offer students opportunities to be part of school committees.
91. They dont
92. They open the gates....
93. It doesn't
94. No idea
95. If there are absent , I get notified
96. Liaison teacher who contacts parents re attendance
97. Books and hot lunch are provided
98. Doesn't help
99. I'm unsure about this.
100. From experience open door system
101. No idea
102. I think they give uniforms to children who need them. Not much else that I know of.
103. School bus, bus eireann. Cert for good attendance, not fair marked absent for hospital appointment , camhs etc
104. Walk and cycle bus, engaged teachers making school fun and enjoyable. Great atmosphere and ethos in the school.
105. Not sure
106. Unsure
107. They give a homework pass for a month of perfect attendance, and prizes for perfect term attendance. The children are named and celebrated at assemblies. They also have a big trophy that goes to the class with best attendance every month.
108. Not vety helpful
109. I unsure
110. No idea
111. I'm not sure how to answer this
112. They have a breakfast club
113. They don't
114. Parent meeting in September
115. Not sure
116. They offer home Schooling liaison
117. There are bus Éireann services direct to school which really helps access
118. Parent teacher communication
119. special needs, most get busses

120. Liaison officer
121. Inclusion
122. Don't really intervene
123. There is an active ethos of inclusion. There are two support classes for neurodivergent children. The staff are approachable and communication is good.
124. Nice teachers
125. Inclusive culture.
126. Not sure
127. It doesn't
128. I don't know yet
129. Before school care, buses to and from school
130. Supports for anxious kids; follow up if kids are missing days etc.
131. Making life at school enjoyable, plenty of lunchtime clubs, good food in canteen
132. Had meetings, they try to support the child, unfortunately staff are always busy when the child needs them the most. The school has 2 support counsellors to 650 students, 1 of the 2 is on maternity leave
133. Not sure
134. Attendance week and rewards as well as making school a place the children are happy to learn in and want to attend.
135. N/a
136. Encouraging the parent's association to fundraise to be able to subsidise costs.
137. Places a high value on learning and enjoyment of learning.
138. I don't know
139. Don't know
140. Parents organise fun days and cake sales that children enjoy
141. The bus
142. It doesn't
143. Make school term attractive and conducive to learn and study, and I think the schools here are absolutely great.
144. Don't know.
145. My daughter loves to attend school over her class mates and her teacher
146. You can email or message the school if your child is not feeling great - for whatever reason - this initiative is called "handle with care"
147. Don't know
148. They ensure the school is a friendly, positive place for all children.
149. School completion programme
150. It doesn't.
151. Not aware
152. They don't
153. The uniform in junior school is a non crested which is cheaper.
154. Competitions for attendance to encourage them not to miss days

155. they dont
156. 50/50, they don't have the resources to support kids with needs
157. Letters to parents to encourage attendance
158. School does monthly draws to encourage attendance
159. School bus scheme
160. Run competitions
161. The teachers are very encouraging and introduce new ways to learn through not just books and writing but through play. In the way of physically attended nothing
162. Provides bus service for special needs children only.
163. I don't know
164. My child goes to a breakfast club on Fridays and Mondays because of his additional needs
165. Free books, free hot lunch
166. offer support and very approachable
167. I'm not sure however the teaching staff make a huge difference as they are so kind.
168. There is a bus service to school.
169. I am not aware of supports for this
170. Encourages fun, friendship, actives, music, after school sports.
171. Strange question. Money has nothing to do with attending school. Its free, apart from one mandatory insurance levy
172. They don't
173. Books and hot lunches
174. Encourages
175. It doesn't
176. They don't
177. Really good initiatives by running competitions between classes to have kids on time everyday
178. It is a lovely school with lots of activities although I cannot compare to other schools. I'm not sure how they help children attend school.
179. I dont know
180. keeps discussion open with parents. has a parent shcool liason officer. offers shorter days, single classes,
181. They dont
182. I don't know
183. Breakfast club
184. Unclear
185. Provide a bus stagger arrival and collection times to accommodate parents
186. Aladdin reporting tool
187. Encourage them and have attendance officer to look out for them on wet days,(change of clothes) worries discussed
188. Bus provided, easy system for drop off and/or early collection, liaison officer

189. creating an open, non-intimidating environment
190. Make it a safe/ happy environment
191. I don't know
192. I don't know
193. ?
194. They offer a very friendly and fun environment with lots of social and emotional support and movement breaks. My kids love going to school as its a welcoming place!
195. I don't know
196. hot school meals
197. Through threats to parents when things are not going well. By blaming the child for failing. By reminding them that they are difficult.
198. No
199. I don't know.
200. I'm not sure about it.
201. Conducts interesting activities with children
202. Reward system for attendance at end of year
203. It's a great school
204. By being a safe, fun environment for the kids
205. They don't provide any service of transport or after school - i couldn't find a bus available for the time that my child finishes school and the after school I was able to get a space in. There is no support for parents working full time in Ireland.
206. They do.nt
207. school meals for primary NOT secondary
208. Attendance initiatives during the year, excellent student centered approach, restorative school and they try hard not to suspend when problems arise
209. I do not know. Maybe with the school dog, helping with emotional issues
210. I don't no
211. No input other than come each day
212. One to one meetings with parents whose children attendance is poor.
213. Not sure
214. They have to go to school
215. I do not know
216. The school is very welcoming/supporting/encouraging
217. Keeps annual utility fees low, pays for all books and copies, holds a uniform swap day.
218. They put an emphasise on coming to school on time.
219. Unknown
220. Tracks attendance, parents have access to Vsware, HSCL if there are difficulties.
221. The home teacher works with families. I do find our schools staff are approachable. They want to help.
222. It doesn't

- 223. They offer them free books and copies...
- 224. There are buses that go there
- 225. N/a
- 226. Make it fun and a safe place to learn in and practise equality
- 227. Helping secure adequate resources
- 228. Reward of building up 2 mins per day if on time so he can have up to 10mins to research his personal project
- 229. The offer help in every aspect of their schooling plus all the extra activities they provide
- 230. Fun activities not just book learning
- 231. I don't know. Is there any help? I thought this is something which need to be solved individually.
- 232. No judgement around timekeeping etc, very supportive teachers who know and care about the children.
- 233. I don't know
- 234. I don't know
- 235. Would not know
- 236. In my experience when I have had difficulty getting my girl to go to school the teacher and all staff have been very understanding to her needs, they would support and understand her anxieties or acknowledge why she was upset and reassure her that everything was ok, and after 15mins of a kind word or distraction my girl was happy to join her class. Some other children go to school hungry and once the teacher realises this they will organise toast and orange juice. Kind words and a friendly relaxed atmosphere of understanding goes such a long way with little kiddies.
- 237. By giving out green cards
- 238. Welcoming environment
- 239. My child enjoys school especially subjects like woodwork etc
- 240. Excellent teachers making teaching fun
- 241. supportive
- 242. I don't know
- 243. If the child is going to absent, it should be informed
- 244. Early notifications to home if child isn't at school
- 245. I am unaware
- 246. ? What do you mean by 'help', question is unclear
- 247. By making a pleasant place to go
- 248. None
- 249. By making it a safe environment
- 250. I am not aware what is on offer as it has not come on my radar.
- 251. Dont know
- 252. I'm not sure
- 253. Good Communication

- 254. Not sure exactly what's being asked here
- 255. Interesting curriculum and welcoming teachers
- 256. Unsure
- 257. Messages alerting parent of a child's absence are sent to ensure and remind us to send in note or explain the absence.
- 258. Access, encouragement, sourcing lifts/car pooling
- 259. Friendly environment, promotes attendance. Checks & let's parents know if their child is not in school
- 260. Don't know
- 261. No help
- 262. Welcoming atmosphere
- 263. Open door policy
- 264. Don't know
- 265. I don't know
- 266. Offer incentive or rewards for big and little achievements for pupil
- 267. Bus
- 268. Provides book rental
- 269. Yes
- 270. School bus m
- 271. Any emotional issues are identified and dealt with sensitively. A school bus is in place. Access to the school by foot is currently being provided with pathways & crossing. Teachers and other staff are welcome and encouraging.
- 272. Sets a target for days attended on a monthly basis. Rewards kids at end of year with certificate for no days, less than 5 days missed
- 273. My child has no issues attending scholl
- 274. Contacting parents whose children are not on school often
- 275. points system with rewards to encourage involvement in school life.
- 276. Not sure
- 277. I don't know
- 278. They ask you to tell them why you are absent and send a letter home
- 279. They organised an escort for my daughters taxi in the secondary school. No idea in primary school other than a special bus for the Ukrainian children
- 280. Support given if needed
- 281. I don't know if they do.
- 282. They rang after my child missed many days and asked what measures would help so they were good in that regard. They offered good solutions to me and Mt child
- 283. Buses
- 284. Unsure
- 285. don't know
- 286. Unknown
- 287. I am not aware of issues of attendance

288. Make it a happy place to learn but I think this has also a lot to do with parents
289. Great teachers.....create a great healthy learning environment. Great SET teachers.
290. Home school liaison, provision of food & homework club.
291. Been very supportive of kid give them a reason to be excited for next day
292. Not sure
293. The teachers are very supportive which makes a big difference
294. access to an before and afterschool service, hot meals, nurture room
295. Not sure
296. The teaching team are fantastic, both my children, one who attends and one in the past, always loved going to Scoil Mhuire Lourdes. They are all so welcoming and make a wonderful effort with all the children. Always being creative with activities and fun things to keep children interested.
297. They don't
298. Not sure
299. Encourage them to, walk, skip, scoot or cycle to school, they offer breakfast clubs, they have nurture rooms to make children feel comfortable and safe
300. Promotes education and provides many different activities other than what is on the curriculum and other activities that link in with the curriculum.
301. Following attendees policies, the schools HSCL
302. Yes, HSCL year heads work together, S.C. P also in school.
303. Partnership with parents
304. ?
305. Excellent School home liaison officer
306. Home school liaison officer
307. Assigned teacher calls to the house and helps make a plan with child and parents.
308. They have a brilliant home school liaison officer
309. All teachers are lovely and help each child reach their potential
310. Reward for attendance
311. Helps out with school bag, books,, transportation
312. Attendance initiatives
313. By making school a positive experience and encouraging and supporting the students and families
314. Walking
315. It stays in contact with the parents for encouragement.
316. Don't know
317. I don't know
318. It doesn't
319. By making it fun
320. HSCL reaches out to help find out why and how we can support the child together
321. They encourage good attendance and provide incentives for good attendance
322. Meals, breakfast club

- 323. School bus.
- 324. Breakfast club and free dinners
- 325. Have a draw to encourage school attendance and students can win a bicycle etc
They bring the kids who have good attendance to the cinema and for pizza
- 326. All school approach from HSCL to year heads etc and affirmation/prizes for attendance
- 327. HSCL is excellent
- 328. I'm sure the school would make contact if your child was absent for a substantial period of time
- 329. They have school bus x3 and a pre loved uniform sale 2 times a year
- 330. N/a
- 331. Attendance - 18 days max off school
- 332. brings them in from the play ground
- 333. I'm not sure
- 334. schools completion, breakfast and homework club, liaison
- 335. It's a very welcoming school. Since covid children greeted at school gate by the principal and staff
- 336. Encouraging them through targets
- 337. To my knowledge it doesn't, it threatens tusla
- 338. There are great SNAs but my daughter is meant to have 1 to 1 SNA help and this is not possible due to staff shortages.
- 339. The give awards for good attendance
- 340. Encourage attendance
- 341. I am unsure
- 342. Incentivise school attendance
- 343. Home school liaison with fixer
- 344. Not sure
- 345. School bus, it's a rural school
- 346. If a child has poor attendance records then the principal would contact that child's parents and try find out the reason and a solution, reminders are all sent out via Aladdin or email
- 347. They get a reward at the end of the month
- 348. Unsure
- 349. It's all about what the student wants which in my opinion keeps them in school
- 350. It doesn't. We don't even have home school liason
- 351. Doesnt
- 352. Don't know
- 353. Attendance report
- 354. Not sure
- 355. Staying in close contact with parents and families, and app that parents have to report absent days

356. Beyond email reminders I'm not aware of policies
357. Not sure they do?
358. By inform parents of absenteeism on app and by text
359. There is no support with this as far as I know. And I have never heard of a HSL in the school, altho as far as I'm aware attendance is not an issue, especially as most families are working so rely on school so they can get to work!
360. liaising with home, communicating, making a plan . starting small and building on that
361. They do not
362. Home school community liaison coordinator, school completion programme
363. There is a home school liaison
364. teacher/principle at front gate welcoming parents and children and helping if child doesn't want to go in
365. Good teachers who treat pupils with respect
366. We have a home school family liaison officer who can talk to families struggling with attendance,
367. My daughter gets a school bus to her school
368. Bus
369. There are bus services but we don't qualify for it
370. Not sure
371. Teacher support for children
372. I don't know we first month in a school
373. Attendance is very high but probably more relates to the lack of social deprivation in the area
374. School has a check and connect group every morning. Has a counseling teacher for the children
375. Breakfast club , pay a small amount yearly and have all stationary, markers crayons, glue sticks , pencil etc are provided them. It's cost more to buy these yourself.
376. I can't see anything they do
377. Rewards attendance by acknowledging good attendance. Makes it as fun as possible.
378. School bus, additional school supports if required
379. Makes school fun that they want to attend
380. They don't. Notifications will be sent out at 5, 10, 15 days absence.
381. No support in a previous school & moved school because if this old school no teachers on the yard at gate to say good morning or help in the little kid with tears
382. Has an attendance report online
383. Attendance drive. Awards, school completion
384. Open the school
385. Gives attendance awards
386. Nothing sticks out to answer this

- 387. Not sure
- 388. Lots of extra curricular activities that are funded by the parents association
- 389. Don't know
- 390. Don't know
- 391. School Liason teacher
- 392. They have a fantastic support network for struggling kids. They are part of the nature room programme. A couple of the teachers run a sensory workshop each term after school.
- 393. Monitor the 20 days rule discourages holiday during turn time
- 394. Not sure
- 395. I don't know
- 396. Engagement with the community, offering supports and parent involvement.
Summer programs to show learning and school as fun and positive.
- 397. Not sure what this question means, as children have to go to school. Where else would to go?
- 398. Flexible n approachable
- 399. For my Son situation , I am the one motivating because it is difficult for him especially knowing that kids younger than him knows how to read or write and he is getting older some kids make fun of him so I have to motivate him.
- 400. I'm not sure
- 401. Resources
- 402. School bus collects kids from outside their home.
- 403. Provide a varied programme with lots of fun activities
- 404. No idea
- 405. Involved them in an attendance and punctuality campaign.
- 406. Attendance prizes. Clubs.
- 407. sna support, unit for children with special needs
- 408. They do a walking bus from different sections of the town. There are school buses as well
- 409. As much 1 on 1 as possible and support ,but hard with large class etc
- 410. HSCL
- 411. It doesnt
- 412. Vsware
- 413. Very welcoming every day, teacher and principal greet them at the gates
- 414. No bus so all parents have to drop off. rural school
- 415. My son is in the unit, they were very helpful in conjunction with myself in organising his school transport which only started Tuesday.
- 416. They make the kids all feel welcome and included
- 417. Im not sure
- 418. They are there!
- 419. Can't answer that.
- 420. Attendance notice

- 421. i get a notification if my child is late for school
- 422. School bus
- 423. Not sure, although they provide of the hot meals which helps
- 424. Not sure
- 425. busses available
- 426. Not sure
- 427. Not sure
- 428. Don't know. I drive mine to and from school
- 429. They are inclusive to all children regardless of background. Engage with the children one-to-one and liaise exceptionally with parents.
- 430. I don't know
- 431. Provide bus service for children who live outside of the area of which the school is located in.
- 432. Doesn't, makes every day a mountain
- 433. Aladdin reporting
- 434. By providing a supportive environment to attend.
- 435. Make it a safe fun happy environment
- 436. Adds fun activities that can be done weekly by the class however this is not available to all school classes it seems to be lowering every year. Although school work is important a bit more rewards based or extra fun activities added for every class year is needed
- 437. Listening and hearing parents.
- 438. Good relationships between teacher/principal and parents.
- 439. Unsure what is meant by this question - very open ended
- 440. NA
- 441. Free food and free books, but I think that's all over Ireland
- 442. Organized transport for children with special needs
- 443. Encouraging attendance and alternative means of transport for children with additional needs
- 444. Don't know
- 445. Where a child is struggling to attend, the staff are very accommodating to offer help with a car ride
- 446. Makes it a pleasant and secure place for all
- 447. Encouragement. Create a positive happy environment
- 448. By making it a safe place
- 449. Not sure
- 450. School Liaison Officer.
- 451. They could provide information on what buses are available.
- 452. Via the parent liaison officer
- 453. Through support
- 454. They have attendance awards and certificates.

- 455. Parent outreach
- 456. They don't
- 457. She is a very fair and open minded child. We have open discussions at home about people in financial difficulties and she has an understanding that not every house is the same
- 458. I don't know
- 459. Attendance heroes, awards, Liaison officer gives a lot of support
- 460. They have incentives in places and have a good environment.
- 461. Nurturing environment. Fun activities during the day. Building self esteem through participation.
- 462. Collaborative effort, tutor and year head encourage school attendance
- 463. ?
- 464. Offers a breakfast club, has a home school Liaison
- 465. Enforces an attendance policy.
- 466. N/A
- 467. It doesn't
- 468. No idea
- 469. I don't know
- 470. Support from SCP worker & HSCL worker, linking with parents. Attendance is encouraged & rewarded in the school.
- 471. In what way?
- 472. They don't talk about attendance
- 473. Attendance drive
- 474. I don't know
- 475. Follow up on poor attendance / regular parental contact if required
- 476. ?
- 477. Free bus
- 478. School completion and works with parents on improving attendance
- 479. Unsure
- 480. A good amount of traffic control measures, however, there is no school bus in the area which is a drain on parents as a rural school in a village which also has no public transport.
- 481. Don't think School does...that's the parents
- 482. I'm not sure about that

Q11. Why do you think that is?

- 1. To get educated
- 2. My children love their friends and really like their teachers. There is a good atmosphere in our school.
- 3. The curriculum is overloaded interest not catered for, child doesn't get to do things they are good at in order to experience success
- 4. She likes to learn

5. Important to learn.
6. My kids love their teachers. They have great support from them.
7. She has autism and can find school to be a very over stimulating/overwhelming place. She finds it hard to socialise with children who aren't her best friends
8. Because crackpot left wing ideology isn't taught there.
9. Home support
10. Friends.
11. They enjoy school, like spending time with friends, the environment is engaging and the teacher is very nice, kind, fun and engaging.
12. SHE IS A GOOD LEARNER
13. Friendships
14. Homework is very hard and takes a long time to complete
15. Love there teachers and seeing their friends
16. school does not cater for children who are exceptionally able so school is considered very boring
17. They like their friends and teachers
18. They enjoy it there and are supported at home to attend school
19. Fun engaging activities
20. She has anxiety
21. Warm environment at school, small class sizes.
Encouragement and positive reinforcement at home
22. The school is a very positive environment, with plenty of sports provided as extras by the teachers
23. Happy
24. He likes school
25. Friendships and routine. My children enjoy school but like every other child dislike getting up in the mornign for it.
26. He loves to learn and loves to meet his friends
27. Lack of support and how he is treated because he is a boy
28. She loves the atmosphere and community
29. His teacher as last year he didn't like school. Lots of melt downs
30. It's a very welcoming school, it's a small.countru school , mindful activities available they promote a happy environment
31. They enjoy school
32. positive parenting
33. She is very diligent so likes to do what is required. she also gets to meet friends as she is an only child.
34. They enjoy the school, the enjoy meeting their friends and having fun. They even enjoy learning.
35. Routine, they know it's a necessity
36. Because they get to socialise and spend time with there peers
37. The teachers are kind and patient.
38. TO CATCH UP WITH PALS NOT IN SAME SCHOOL
39. Feeling not good enough, not having new shoes, can't share weekend activities or stories from holidays
40. He likes going to school. We also encourage him as parents

41. They enjoy their time with their peers, the vibrant life in school, people gardening singing and dancing classes available to the children is fabulous. It keeps their days moving and interesting. My 3 enjoy school.
42. Socially sees friends. Enjoys certain subjects & extra curricular activities
43. Complains it's boring, strict teacher etc but know she loves it really. One child loves it, one not so much.
44. She's very interested in learning and has a friend group.
45. Friends
46. Anxiety
47. The principal is dreadful- she shouts at the children- the atmosphere in the school is awful and has deteriorated year on year since we got this principal- numbers are way down- I am also thinking of moving my children out of it due to how badly it is run.
48. My 2 children live in a very happy home environment and we can provide everything they need. They eat well, they sleep well, they have their friends, they play outside. They are very welcome to school by the teachers, they are very good students, they get involved in school projects, also we try to involve our children in helping the community. My 2 children have a great sense of working and helping the community.
49. their teacher and friends are lovely, they are happy.
50. It's a lovely school, they love seeing their friends.
51. School is a safe, fun, place
52. They don't mind going because it's a social outlet.
53. I encourage education
54. The school has a really happy environment. The teachers have a really good friendship with the children and the principal is a very good communicator.
55. She is bright, has friends and the school environment is excellent
56. Anxiety and overwhelming in new school 1st year secondary
57. Enjoys the school and meeting new people
58. Enjoys learning. Likes to spend time with friends in class.
59. Undiagnosed, I feel my child will eventually get a diagnosis. Behavioural, sensory issues, anxiety, avoidance homework not done, etc etc.
60. Friends and nice teachers
61. She suffers with anxiety
62. Generally it is to do with anxiety from peer group 'issues'. The pressure my child feels to fit in with what others are doing and how others are behaving when it really doesn't 'sit well' with her is intense.
63. They enjoy school
64. The routine, friends and social
65. Because we provide the environment where going to school is good
66. because he does not feel supported by the teachers and feels frustrated, isolated and alone
67. Loves learning and the environment in the school
68. She is 8
69. She just doesn't like school in general, she gets bored
70. They enjoy meeting friends and like their teachers
71. Fun and caring environment
72. she is a very happy child that needs extra support sometimes and her school is great :)
73. She knows she's behind

74. He doesn't like the uniform, he wants to be out playing.
75. Enjoys meeting friends, PE & Sports, learning
76. They have friends and spending good time together
77. So many periods with absent teachers, 5 missed classes today for my son in 3rd year. No teacher for one of his subjects since first year.
78. Education is the key to self improvement and advancement. We discuss that a lot. They also enjoy friendships and yard time
79. Some days are better than others but my child said the class is so noisy and the children are always fighting and they can't hear teacher
80. Like to see friends
81. Friendship and teachers
82. Routine and pleasant teacher and classmates
83. Because I take them to school
84. They enjoy school and as a family we value education
85. My child enjoys school and has a lovely teacher.
86. Because she has special needs
87. He is neurodivergent and finds school very restrictive, confining and overwhelming.
88. He likes it when there but is a quiet chap who can entertain himself at home.
89. they go to school every day however occasionally are anxious about upcoming tests/exams, how they will be treated by certain teachers or certain peers. They often find school tiring and demanding- a long school day followed by a few more hours daily of homework and study
90. enjoys time with his friends, enjoys learning.
91. See question 9
92. It's fun.....likes learning and meeting other children.
93. Happy environment. always has kind teacher's easy to approach .
94. Friends
95. Too much comfort on the house and got addicted on screens (tv/tablets/phones).
96. Bored at home
97. She enjoys her friends and teachers.
98. They know importance of education and to meet their friends
99. NA
100. The teachers and principal are very welcoming and it is such a relief to know he is happy in school
101. He feels comfortable there
102. He is been bullied and the school is not acting on it
103. My son feels like the subjects he learns or the way he learns them is not suited to him. He would benefit from project like work which is not an option. Also way too much homework after spending all day in school
104. Most days, they're happy to go - to see friends and their teachers. Occasionally they don't want to go.
105. Not stressful, lots of play fun creative work, friends,
106. Very happy in school
107. The school and staff are phenomenal
108. Welcoming teachers
109. They enjoy school

110. They enjoy school and don't have the hardships others do so are carefree to allow them to enjoy school
111. Prefers to stay at home and laze around and play games, but still goes to school with no trouble and has a good enough time there
112. Because we moved to an educate together , we did struggle with school refusal in Jan 2022 , old school had zero understanding of autism , masking , anxiety , even when I asked them to use neps website for resources they still didn't . I'm sure they didn't believe the child had anxiety just because they weren't educated .
113. The teachers, principal and all other staff are very friendly. She enjoys partaking in the sports and committees.
114. Friends
115. Teacher can be strict
116. Friends
117. He is suffering from bereavement due to the loss of his Dad and there is no support in the school
118. Because we ask him to
119. Eldest is in 5th year and hates school . Youngest is in second class and loves it
120. It's fun and they learn so much. School is such a fun place to be now which is great.
121. He is happy in the school. The staff and children have created a environment that makes them happy.
122. Spending time with their friends
123. She's excited about she has to learn in school, she adores her teacher, her friends and the afterschool service she attends.
124. Suffers from mental health issues
125. On going Problems with peer group
126. They enjoy meeting their peers
127. He is encourages by us his parents and knows that education is important.
128. Friends and good teachers
129. Sees friends. Wants to learn.
130. It's fun, engaging and they are valued in school.
131. He is nit unhappy there and wants to meet friends and learn
132. They are happy in school with friends..all teachers have been very nice
133. One wants to go everyday and the other doesn't want to go any day.
134. He finds the work tiring and sometimes feels the teachers don't deal with things fairly. He gets upset when they don't stick to plans.
135. School culture
136. Supportive teachers in primary and good friends
137. My children are interested in learning and meeting their peers/friends
138. They are interested in learning and enjoy being with their friends.
139. I wouldn't say wants to go but is happy to go and once she has people to play with she is happy
140. He's happy going to school, like yard time
141. Social interaction
142. Being split up from friends and put into different classes
143. Friends and safety and fun

144. Its a happy fun place for her
145. They like school, the support and their friends
146. She likes the school grounds, her classmates but she is only in 1st year a few weeks so hopefully she will feel the same for the next 6 years.
147. Really tired
148. Routine, bus ride
149. Enjoys routine, SNAs make tea for him when he's stressed
150. He finds it a negative experience, and has switched of in some classes as he believes the teachers think he's dumb, do why bother...
151. They are happy on their return from school.
152. Because he is brought up to think that way that school is important for their future
153. To meet friends and try and get an educated
154. They feel welcome, supported, included, and liked.
155. They hate handwriting
156. Occasionally they're tired, but 95% of the time they're happy to go.
157. He loves school!
158. He doesn't like it and gets sensory overload
159. My child likes school and most of the teachers and has good friends
160. Other children pick on them as they are easy picking for them
161. Enjoys the school and seeing their friends
162. But for a while she really didn't.
- It was because we were moving out of our own home temporarily for renovations.
163. He enjoys school & meeting friends
164. They have good friends ,sports and the environment at school is a happy place to learn they enjoy going in everyday
165. Educate together primary school then to a secondary uniformed school where the teachers must be addressed as Sir /Ms. Child is in constant fear they will get into trouble. Detention, class punishment with extra homework. Control tactic where children feel they are not heard. No other secondary school option in the area.
166. We provide a good morning routine and school/education is highly encouraged in the household
167. The positive culture of the school and the children's peer friendships.
168. Friendships
169. Socializing
170. There aren't enough interesting opportunities provided to spark their curiosity in learning about the world.
171. Parental expectations and aspirations for learning and the school culture is aligned with the home culture.
172. He is in a special class with a high teacher to child ratio where his needs are met and he is well supported
173. It's a great school and she is a good kid...so far!
174. Strong routine, good teachers and good friends
175. My child enjoys the atmosphere and has fun in lessons
176. Supportive environment
177. There is no support and they are excluded

178. She is only child and she loves company and she is interested in learning new things too.
179. Pleasant environment, friends etc.
180. She loves learning and socialising
181. I think it has a good, supporting ethos
182. He has PDA
183. There is a real positive atmosphere in the school, friendly teachers etc
184. Does not feel as good as peers
185. They have friends in the school
186. Because education is important
187. She is a teenager with girl friendship issues. I have two boys who are both happy going to school.
188. Encouragement from home but also not given a choice attendance is a non negotiable and children cope better with clear boundaries
189. for the most part, because they have to, just the way i have to work, part of routine, no choice. education is valued in the family and comes from top down.
190. Stress, not enough support
191. Loved her teacher and her friends
192. I'm very lucky that my children are in a lovely school with lovely staff. School is fun for them most days and they really enjoy it.
193. Friendly and fun atmosphere with toys and interactive experiences in the classroom
194. Because I remind them how important their education is. The school run competitions for best attendance but my child in her 6 years there has never gotten noticed
195. Because it's not the schools jobs to organise ways for children to attend school. It's the parents
196. Her school is a lovely place to be.
197. Friends
198. Friends nice teacher , siblings go ,
199. Friends
200. She likes the school and doesn't mind learning and knows she needs an education.
201. My child has DCD and sensory processing issues.
202. A happy environment
203. Happy environment, good teachers, excellent principle and vice principal, good facilities
204. The teachers make a difference.
205. Love of learning - nurturing school environment in the school - adequate play time - encouragement at home
206. They love school, the teachers are so nice and has supported them with resources. School has built up their confidence and encouraged them to try new things and to enjoy & have fun as you learn.
207. Currently they are having a bit of anxiety about speaking Infront of the class. Other than that it is usually ok
208. We have provided a home where education is embraced
209. She has just started so it's a novelty
210. Enjoys learning, being with friends, their teacher, the social aspect of it.

211. The principal and vice principal are both verbally rude to the children. Including the withholding of special education needs resources that kids need to do well in school. The department of education provides funds to all schools for education supports, but our primary school chooses who gets it and who doesn't.

This sets a bad tone from the top, so teachers feel entitled to be harsh too. A child from a struggling home situation would benefit from a more supportive, empathetic school environment. My children are not financially deprived yet they really detest going into school every day. Imagine a child with home trauma or financial challenges - it's the school's attitude that could rescue these kids and make a difference in their lives.

212. My son doesn't like the competitive environment.

213. She loves school

214. Finds that there are too many people, doesn't like sitting all day, or being inside all day. Gets bored.

215. Friends

216. Schools are getting better to support all types of children however the child who is not naturally academic, but does not fall in to the "extra support" category can be forgotten about. Classroom breaks are essential for these kids.

217. Seeing friends is the biggest factor. When he's at school, he's occupied. He doesn't necessarily get excited about learning and homework but it gives him a structure and he sees his friends in class and friends from other classes during the yard time. When he's sick and stays at home, he gets to play a video game but he gets bored eventually. As he gets older, less kids come out to play outside.

218. Primary school yes as learning is done in a fun environment

Secondary school no as learning is more formal & students feel pressurised to do academically well

219. He enjoys half of his classes. Has a good communication and rapport with all of his teachers and wider school staff. Enjoys the company of school mates.

220. Feels excluded and not good enough for class mates. Doesn't attend local sports groups due to being full so therefore can't play on the school team

221. To see their friends

222. All teachers are very nice and supportive.

223. Playing with friends

224. lovely teachers and friends. fantastic environment

225. Very stable home background (which not everyone has - my children are lucky, I grew up in a single parent family)

226. He enjoys it, nice environment. Lots of play with friends

227. My children love the teaching staff, they are a small school <50 and they all know and care about each other. The staff are very personable and are quick to see if there's any issues with the children.

228. Yes my child is enjoying school on a daily basis as she is sociable anyway.

229. Happy there mostly and good atmosphere in school

230. She is incredibly happy and feels understood and included

231. friends at school, different activities they do, desire to learn

232. Just tiredness sometimes

233. because she loves to learn everyday and see all her teachers and classmates

- 234. My daughter loves her school
- 235. Meets friends and is a friendly environment
- 236. They love it and are very sociable
- 237. In her own words "I just want to go out and play with my friends"
- 238. They are treated well and are happy there and given opportunities to have fun and enjoy learning (of course they don't like homework and there are days they are tired and don't want to go, but overall they are happy going in.) I would love a survey on homework, as I don't believe it is a good thing in the quantity they are given as all children need downtime outside of school and perhaps more flexible, relaxed and creative ways to reinforce their learning
- 239. The teachers are encouraging, kind & fun. Their friends are there. There is a strong emphasis on outdoor learning, sport and play
- 240. It takes too long to arrive at school
- 241. My child/children are very engaged and we try to ensure a positive attitude to all levels of learning and activity. Encouragement for every struggle and success
- 242. My daughter has EBSA as well as being autistic. We have made requests for accommodations which can not be met by the school.
- 243. Don't like school
- 244. They enjoy the school environment and they like seeing their friends.
- 245. They enjoy being with their friends.
- 246. She likes to be with friends and she enjoys the school environment.
- 247. The child is currently in the process of adapting to school after a long holiday.
- 248. He is naturally inquisitive and loves learning
- 249. I don't really know. She just doesn't like school. It's nothing to do with teachers or anything she just doesn't like having to do work
- 250. They are happy in school
- 251. She knows it's where she has to go!
- 252. They are in a safe, happy environment with their friends
- 253. He likes his friends
- 254. Sports and meets friends
- 255. Teachers have created a nice inclusive environment.
- 256. The education system hasn't evolved much in the last 20 years/with society. Access to information is SO easy they don't feel the need to learn things off. They don't like the amount of subjects in secondary. Too many subjects, less subjects with same depth. Leaving cert is a joke. People got max points and it was useless this yr.
- 257. A safe environment
- 258. They want to get on and as at home we see the importance of education and they know that they have to go.
- 259. Tiredness, difficulty in understanding some lessons with no extra support, isolation from friends in the class.
- 260. Because of their friends
- 261. Meet others to learn.
- 262. Positive, encouraging environment
- 263. Doesn't like having to do the homework after
- 264. Basic needs & support being met
- 265. They are happy there. They have great relationships with all staff and students.

266. He enjoys the schoolday, enjoys being active in school. St brigids is an extremely active school.
267. Cause I provide a safe warm home and they get a good night sleep and are aware of the importance of an education, they have some good friend groups.
268. It's a safe fun environment,
269. Lovely school
270. They enjoy school and do not struggle with schoolwork.
271. They enjoy school. The social aspect mostly. But also my child enjoys learning.
272. Finds the day long and classroom environment noisy and boring
273. She likes school .
274. Eager to learn and see friends
275. Antiquated school policy and programme. More concerned with kids arriving on time than how kids are coping and developing. Less about the kid and more about the overall system. Too much to go through but I know my kid and others are anxious about going to school, about how their feelings are managed and heard, and the lack of support and engagement is felt from those in charge at the school.
276. She loves to learn and her teachers make it fun and safe to do so
277. Shorter school day. Wants to learn
278. They miss there parents working
279. He says he hates it, I think he has many issues that cause him to feel that way being autistic and having adhd, pda, ocd
280. My child does sports 4 mornings a week before school starts, he has a brilliant group of friends and gets on well with the teachers and likes the support he gets from them
281. Friends, other activities. School now isnt what it was like 20/30 years ago.
282. Both children have good friends in school. They also like daily routine.
283. They love their teachers, the staff create a warm, safe environment with good clear boundaries, there is a strong anti-bullying stance, the school has great learning resources and fantastic facilities eg a playground style fit trail, sports hall, sports pitch so they can get exercise and experience a variety of activities every day. The school offers fun extra curricular activities on site.
284. my child likes school. he is brought up to respect elders, teachers and other students and he receives such respect which makes him go to school willingly.
285. he enjoys learning and playing with friends.
286. They enjoy it
287. The have now moved.
288. Not sure what is up with my boy at the moment, I think it takes a few wks for kids to settle back into school after the summer holidays, I have no doubt that he will be fine soon, I know the school will have no issues with him and he will be ok.
289. Because he loves his friends and maths
290. They are warm. Happy. Loved.
291. Teachers friends and zero tolerance to bullying in the school
292. Enjoy their friends. Likes their teachers
293. Friends and supportive teachers
294. She has great friends and great support from the school
295. The teachers at school are not very enthusiastic about teaching and they dont make it a secret, it is a lot different than in primary school. Teachers seem to have preferences

towards some students and often unfairly distribute punishment. They are quick to give a note for just about anything, but between two children in post primary school I am yet to see a single instance of praise and a good note. This is not the way to teach kids about mutual respect and how to relate to each other and other members of society. It is only designed for kids to see Teachers as authority. If kids were treated equally and involved fully, if teachers took time to recognise their efforts, or to help them where they struggle, it would make so much difference. One of the teachers on teachers meeting told me my child simply wasn't interested in the subject. I asked how could we support my child, and what could we do. The teachers said there was nothing that could be done, some kids are just not interested in the particular subject. This is shocking approach, as teachers are literally paid to teach. Why are they not taught how to make things interesting. Why are they allowed to simply give up on a student. Of course there are exceptions, but not many.

296. great school and friends
297. They enjoy school
298. My child get all the support from the family to do his education. At the same time we always encourage him on getting a well education. Both me and my husband are coming from well educated backgrounds. Therefore we know the worth of education.
299. Supportive school environment incl teachers and management. Enjoyable teaching. Friends.
300. Nice teacher and friends
301. They enjoy learning
302. Friendships, sporting activities
303. Tiring. School rules are too imposing in terms of clothing, and punished if 5 minutes late - children have no control over traffic etc. children would rather not go than face unnecessary negative reinforcements
304. Good friends and great teachers And it's a routine
305. The schools attitude to inclusion of children with Sen is poor. The school doesn't deal with poor and failing teachers whose classroom management is verging on the abusive.
306. They like seeing their friends
307. A positive school atmosphere and the knowledge that if something is wrong - they feel comfortable in approaching the teaching and school staff who will make every effort to resolve issues.
308. Hanging out with friends, sense of responsibility, not wanting to miss out on what's going on in school, not wanting to have to catch up on subjects later.
309. Because they love school. The friend, teachers and the learning environment are all a big part in their development.
310. Gets up and ready independently and never tries to stay home
311. Enjoys school
312. Interest in learning and meeting friends
313. Because she has too
314. The primary school child has a very positive school experience and school environment and do wants to attend school. Although the secondary student finds the academic workload manageable, the social, peer group pressures, length of school day are constant stressors.
315. He loves learning, structure & his friends
316. Great atmosphere in school. Wants to get a good leaving cert. Great school.

- 317. Happy there
- 318. Numerous reasons but all based on kids perceptions
- 319. My child enjoys the learning environment provided by her teacher
- 320. They enjoy classes and the teachers are amazing.
- 321. Freinds, clear boundaries, New school building!
- 322. School environment
- 323. She likes school, the teacher and meeting her friends
- 324. Because she understands that is how you make progress. She understands education is important and it is expected that she go to school unless she is sick.
- 325. He always talks about school and his friends, wakes up very early to get ready for school and happy to do his homework! He thinks positively about school!
- 326. they have difficulty with the language
- 327. He is in a safe happy environment
- 328. All different reasons, my child has severe ADHD so he can be all over the place emotionally
- 329. Struggles in class, dislikes teacher shouting all the time, says not as bad this year
- 330. Some days he does, others he does not
- 331. Meets her friends
- 332. They feel safe and supported and have access to all the amenities they require to aid their sense of security.
- 333. Lovely caring schools and children are very happy there.
- 334. Sometimes most days will go in with a smile on his face, but the system is failing him in regards to his educational needs and access to assessments ! Its 2024 this should not be like this.
- 335. He says he can work at home but he has to go to school
- 336. Think she just accepts it as the norm
- 337. Anxiety of a new school; some staff are always shouting - they don't seem to have any other way of communicating with the children and this is off-putting for a lot of students; lack of clarity in a number of areas regarding online homework and activities that were never used in primary school;
- 338. They enjoy themselves in both learning and playing with friends
- 339. She enjoys learning. School gives her routine.
- 340. I think it is because they like to see their friends, play lots of fun sports and want their education to continue
- 341. He likes learning and meeting up with his friends.
- 342. We encourage it and speak about the importance of a good education. We highlight the parts that they enjoy and acknowledge that school can be boring and even laborious at times. The primary school has a very big outdoor space and running track so they love all the outdoor activities. They also organise walks in the locality as often as feasible, and link it to their learning, to make the curriculum more interesting and relevant to the kids. They are also bright children and they don't struggle with the curriculum which is a huge advantage. My older daughter who is a wheelchair user and has a severe physical disability accesses the curriculum on a laptop and with Dragon Naturally Speaking, but again is assessed as being gifted so she also does not struggle academically, which really does make school easier. Her trouble is she got bored in primary school but enjoys the longer and more in-depth classes that secondary school offers.

343. Feels safe in school
344. They enjoy school.
345. Bullying has changed my child in primary and now its starting in secondary. I am considering taking my children out of school altogether
346. They are relatively gappy, especially compared to primary school.
347. Because she wants to try and become a successful person
348. They like school, learning and engaging with their peers
349. Friends, good teachers
350. She enjoys school and finds it positive and engaging, its a very small school with a very enthusiastic staff who create a nice community atmosphere.
351. Days are long, the dreaded homework after 6hour day in school
352. Good teachers.....SET teachers and overall a healthy learning foundation for children. Some great programmes in place. Good friendship network
353. She is interested in her education and is self motivated.
354. They enjoy the school environment.
355. I don't know he said it is to long
356. Loves teachers and friends, social aspect, loves learning.
357. She loves the school and friends and teachers
358. She has great teachers and a willingness to learn
359. Most days they are happy to go to school. The principal or a teacher is always at the gate welcoming the children in, their teachers this year seem really supportive and kind, my kids love the extra activities provided by the school
360. Friends, friendly atmosphere etc
361. Their school is so well run, great staff and routines. Passionate teachers and a principal and so positive and encouraging, this reflects in the children for sure!
362. Dont see the relevance of a lot of the subject matter, e.g. Irish
363. She tells me
364. She likes school
365. I think it's because she's shy and because she always made feel left out by friends because she isn't uo to date with the latest gear.
366. He likes his sleep and enjoys working outside on the farm. He is different from my daughter in that he prefers practical activities. He has friends but I think they all do not like school. He understands what is expected of him in regards of education and knows that we value education but he dislikes having to get up and get ready for school. He is perfectly fine once he is dressed and heading to school.
367. She enjoys it, seeing her friends, the routine
368. They enjoy school, they know they need their education.
369. Child is not a morning person and had less preference for directive style of communication and learning
370. My daughter loves her school, her teachers and seeing her friends
371. Generally likes to see his friends
372. Happy in school
373. His parent is a teacher; no choice!
374. They enjoy it. Thankfully, both academic. They live the routine and the socialness of it. Not all the home though.
375. For social and educational reasons

376. She likes seen her friends and is excited about learning
377. Finds very stressful no laugh or chat allowed without been correct feels silly things like ear piercing(small studs)x2 been corrected on ridiculous
378. She is happy in her environment/school friends
379. Social reasons and they know they have to go
380. She enjoys the routine, socialising with her friends and learning new subjects
381. Don't know
382. Because my daughter build confident,she have all support from teachers,she can think and sayd her opinion,she can talk about everything,she is learning a lot.She have a lot of friends,and a lot of activities.
383. Fun and enjoyable
384. To meet their friends
385. My oldest child is a practical child & hands on & has no interest been indoors looking at books. Also I feel the school should offer a full day of PE besides one hour a week!
386. 1st year child is enjoying school and settling well.
6th year child under pressure with work load but enjoys school overall.
387. Time with friends
388. She struggles with school and school
389. That they like school and like their teachers enjoy learning and making friends.
390. She enjoys meeting up with her friends
391. They enjoy seeing there friends and classrooms are more child lead work that hard ridged curriculum
392. She enjoys being in a positive environment and has enjoyed the transition from primary to secondary, joining in with friends from their sport groups
393. They are happy to go see their friends and are really eager to learn new things. PE, arts and crafts and projects are always very welcome. Huge importance is placed on the value of Education in our home, bed times are early and screens are not available during the school week
394. Outlet and opportunity to meet friends.
395. Because they are happy
396. Most teachers are fantastic. They are supportive and encouraging
397. Get a lift in and out with me! We encourage them the best we can
398. My child is happy to spend time with peers.
399. They love school and meeting thhre friends
400. Warm, fed, clothed, relaxed, no huge commute, mum at home
401. Love it
402. He enjoys learning new things
403. We have routine in our home, they go to school, we go to work.
404. good school
405. It's a good atmosphere
406. She loves her teachers friends and sons
407. Feeling like they don't fit in. Tired.
408. My child struggles immensely due to disabilities and has not got the adequate supports to help with this disability. She cannot access the curriculum because she does not have proper equipment to help her to.
409. Its important they dont miss time or then they fall behind in their learning

410. Friends and good teachers
411. One child has anxiety and my other child has autism both can result in school refusal
412. It's a safe happy environment
413. He does not like school but does not argue to go into school on a daily basis
414. Finding it hard to be heard
415. Their friends are there, the teachers are kind & friendly, there is a nice atmosphere in the school. They have had the same class mates since junior infants, they are now in 4th class, with no mixing of classes, this has allowed very strong bonds to form between all the children in the class, boys & girls, nobody is left out
416. We are very lucky with our school, staff are wonderful and my kids have never had an issue with not wanting to go to school
417. They love the teachers
418. Enjoy school
Teachers who engage and stimulate but also encourage and support.
419. Focus on the student
420. They enjoy school
421. Additional needs
422. They both enjoy their school and friends
423. Fun
424. Some days yes some days no big changes feeling's of being bullied and not heard when trying to tell the teacher
425. I feel the Irish school educational system is only built to suit a certain type of child that processes information through memory, if the school system was based on learning through children's interests and continued assessments it would be a much more inclusive environment for those that may be dyslexic etc
426. We are attentive, supportive parents who are financially secure, our children don't experience the stresses & uncertainty of financially disadvantaged families
427. We do not have significant financial struggles so they are able to fully participate in their chosen activities and they have all the necessary books, uniform etc. which is huge for a teenager's confidence. The costs are significant however.
428. Friends
429. Because in our house we encourage learning and support our children to do well at school. We also make them aware of the need for a good education. They like their school environment also. It is a strict but fair school. The children are great full for anything they do get, as they get very little in the way of extras or free resources.
430. I would like to think they like it
431. Not encouraging to kids who have difficulty
432. Anxiety, hard for teenagers to get up early
433. My child is not disadvantaged, she does not have the same barriers and challenges that other children face. School is not a frightening humiliating place for her.
434. Happy with the routine, happy enough with the teacher
435. They have a strong community of good friends, respectful teachers and excellent school facilities
436. Mixture of not liking teacher or subjects
Not wanting to mix with others
Feeling self conscious

437. Sometimes he complains that the school day is too long. He also finds it hard to sit at a table where the other children were all speaking a different language(Polish) and he had no one to talk to and he doesn't understand them.
438. My daughter has additional needs and has thrived since starting her specialised school.
439. They enjoy it
440. Socialising with their friends and they seem to enjoy their teachers/learning
441. They enjoy it and love their friends
442. His teacher is wonderful
443. Homework, peer comments, dislike of certain teachers
444. There is a warm.culture in school and learning is made fun
445. My child want to go to school everyday
446. Combination of home environment, child's personality and their enjoyment of school
447. school day too full of academic subjects, sensory processing and FASD not recognised by Dept as a ' disability that warrants support in class or outside for movement breaks, SNA access
448. Good family support
449. He enjoys learning.
450. They have good friends and for one of them classes are easy
451. It is the normative routine that we do. It's just accepted thad they go to school
452. Enjoys learning & meeting friends
453. They love school. Great teachers, great learning activities and work ethos and disciplines taught.
454. Parental encouragement and educational attainment plus the value family put on education. We make learning as fun as we can and I, as mammy, continuously try to up skill at work and emphasise the importance of learning.
455. In old school because of teachers drinking coffee at front door no teachers on gate to welcome them in no friendly teacher on gate & no support for them while in & now in new school all the above in place & massive difference my only regret is I knew no different taught all schools same & now realise the massive difference & regret not moving in juniors
456. They find the day long and teachers can be unnecessarily strict
457. Likes it
458. Mix of being a teenager and not liking the environment
459. Loves the school and teachers always something interesting arranged
460. Enjoys learning
461. She loves her friends
462. Separation anxiety
463. Small school in a rural area, nice teachers and friends.
464. Likes her peers routine
465. Homework is the biggest issue for the primary school kids. Long days for the secondary school child as he has to leave at 7.40 on a bus in the morning
466. They like school and education is valued by their parents.
467. She loves learning buy has huge struggles Socially. The school is very much in tune with her. They know her very well & are interested in finding ways to support her.
468. Her school is a happy environment but lacks support teachers half of what my sons school gets which is a disgrace.

469. Because they enjoy school and meeting their friends.
470. its school they have no choice
471. Most days yes he wants to go to school but he often complains about not enough time to play and too much hurley and football
472. He really likes the teacher
473. Engaged teachers, focused on a friendly inclusive learning environment and meeting his friends.
474. To see their friends, it's a lovely environment etc, and they are happy there
475. See his friends
476. In a week he ask to stay home at least twice .
477. Enjoys learning
478. Friendship
479. They like to play with their friends and learn from their lovely new teacher.
480. They love the teachers and learning seems to be fun for them
481. Often asks for a sat off..
- Tires easily
- Poor concentration
482. They enjoy learning they have fun meet thrir friends
483. We don't know. Sometimes they are just tired, as there is a lot to do with school, afterschool, homework, activities and family life.
484. They enjoy learning
485. happy with friends
- happy with teachers
- no uniform
- coeducational class
- great support and understanding of adhd needs from school staff
486. They enjoy seeing there friends and they like their múinteoirs
487. Small country school, tight supportive community network, like minded children and families that support each other
488. Great school
489. They enough it and like to be social with friends
490. They are happy.
491. My son has additional needs and finds it hard, also his teacher now won't let him walk in with a parent and he REALLY struggles with this.
492. Na
493. Love her school and teacher
494. Enjoys learning and catching with their friends
495. Because he's 9 he likes school
496. They enjoy school and have strong friendships
497. Because they feel welcomed and included
498. Her friends
499. There learning and play with friends
500. Sadly the area we are in, indigenous Irish are a minority and there is a excessive amount of bullying by other nationalities towards Irish children. It's a massive problem as is the SPHE. They do not want to do it and more focus should be on exam subjects. Religion is also a factor where we had the issue last year of the Catholic religion not being

- taught but every other religion being taught. When my child asked when the Catholic religion was going to be taught her teacher replied , it's the same as the Jewish one so we've covered it. After a complaint to the school she covered it in 20 minutes. My children are very unhappy in school because of these major issues we will probably home school from next year. Bullying should not be tolerated in any form. And it's in all schools towards Irish children, not just ours.
501. I have a positive attitude towards education. The staff of the school provide a positive experience and are all about the children. It is a very well ran school.
 502. Gets tired, overwhelmed, often needs a mental health day
 503. To learn and see his friends
 504. Friends nice teacher
 505. He is a happy boy who enjoys learning and playing with friends in school. He does well and we support him on his daily homework.
 506. Because they know they have to
 507. it's a good school with excellent teachers
 508. They like attending school and as parents it's a given you must go to school
 509. He is only in his first year of junior infants, he was very excited to start school. Most of his friends from preschool are also in his first year class.
 510. She wants to socialise
 511. Because my child does not feel any different from any of the other children, regardless of financial background.
 512. She enjoys seeing her friends
 513. He enjoys learning, the environment, friendships and the relationship he has with his teacher he feels safe and comfortable.
 514. Principle, bully of her position, staff students fear her as parents
 515. Child is very motivated
 516. They love their teachers, want to be with their friends.
 517. My child is okay to go to school.
 518. She feels safe and happy in school
 519. Younger children want to attend school, there is a lot of activities such as swimming, dancing that is including in part of their week however, as they become older there is more of an emphasis on just school work, peer pressure is more advance in terms of branded clothes, certain peers groups are forming leaving the child isolated and not a lot done by the school to prevent it.
 520. He enjoys the class and friends, he likes the staff.
 521. Relationships with teacher/friends. Lots of exciting opportunities and variety during the day.
 522. Positive atmosphere in school, good friends and teachers
 523. They like and enjoy school
 524. Tired
 525. Happy there
 526. He is aware that school is compulsory. He has good friends and teachers. He adapts the teaching to their abilities and age
 527. Devoted teachers, positive school environment
 528. Fatigue, occasional anxiety
 529. One child likes physical activities, he struggles academically and may have adhd.
The second child love to learn and likes school

530. It has never said "I don't want to go to school."
531. He love to see his friends, play with them
532. They really enjoy the school atmosphere, the teachers and there friends
533. They love the social aspect of school and enjoy learning new things
534. See no. 9, also because of her friends
535. Possible learning difficulties as well as a hidden disability which would have her fatigue more easily than others
536. He feels it is a safe place and he can interact with his peers
537. I have 4 children, they are always happy to go to school, they love their teachers and friends
538. He likes school, is good at it and gets on well with other students and the teachers. Some days he is not very enthusiastic as he is tired, or just tired of going, but generally it is not an issue.
I could see that if a student was struggling, either with home life, or with school subjects etc., it would not be a place they would want to be forced to attend.
539. As parents we always talk positively and respectfully about teachers and the school. Our children see us supporting the school, where possible.
540. Enjoys being at a good school
541. Because education is very important
542. She saw her older brother with Asbergers be treated with respect,humour and unlimited kindness in the same school.
They have zero tolerance for bullying, and most of the teachers are absolutely great craic.
543. Separation anxiety
544. He really likes his school and he has a safe, secure, warm home to decompress in after a long day so that he may return the next day refreshed and ready to go.
545. Routine, see & play with friends, change of environment, learn new things
546. I don't know
547. She loves d interaction activities and spending time with her peers.
548. They know they have to go and they like school
549. It's a great school do much going on so many opportunities and clubs like Lego, coding, arts etc
550. Like any other child he has his days that he doesn't want to go, but I'm general he is happy to go to school as it's a fun, happy environment. Also he feels like he is missing out on the banter if he's out as learning is made enjoyable and he wants to be in on the excitement.
551. Safe, welcoming environment. Lovely teachers. Nurturing class and school. School bus.
552. because he likes to study to have a good job in the future
553. School is fun, teacher is lovely
554. Enjoys being with peers
555. To play with friends
556. They are happy with relationship but not educated
557. They are capable of the work (thankfully), they get on with their classmates and attending school is given respect and treated positively within our home
558. Positive, respectful atmosphere. Academically able to access the curriculum with no additional needs
559. They are happy meeting their friends.

- 560. To meet friends. My older child loves the chats with his bus driver and bus escort
- 561. Anxiety
- 562. He likes his teacher and friends
- 563. He enjoys the school and relationships he has with teachers
- 564. They have fun & enjoy seeing their friends. They feel safe.
- 565. They love their friends and teachers and enjoy learning. For all our struggles we are lucky to have a great school community
- 566. They want to see their friends and we emphasize how important education is.
- 567. Her friends
- 568. I like to study
- 569. Enjoys seeing his peers / enjoys school
- 570. They love school and happy school
- 571. They are happy
- 572. He enjoys interacting with other children - we are financially secure so doesn't have any worries that other kids might have - we talk about school positively and from a young age it isn't a choice to go to school it's a way of life and education is important to get on in life
- 573. She struggles with school in general
- 574. They love their school & friends and enjoy what they do in school every day
- 575. 1 daughter has been recently diagnosed with autism and learning difficulties and this has been a struggle for her the last couple of years not wanting to go school as it's too noisy and makes her very tired (her words)
- 576. She enjoys the community aspect and the independence.
- 577. A loving family and explained. Likes to go to see their friends
- 578. She likes to learn, and her teachers are very good so far.
- 579. Friends

Q12. What additional support could your child's school offer to help children attend school every day?

1. Free activities
2. They are running an attendance log with prizes for best class. I do not like this approach as it potentially penalises and stigmatizes students with illnesses or disabilities. It also puts the onus on the child when attendance does is not always there choice in some families who are dealing with social issues such as drug or alcohol issues.
3. Not misuse SET to teach mainstream class groups. Establish good connection with the child, be flexible. Cater to the child's interests
4. To pay for the iPads that are used
5. N/A
6. No homework
7. More SNAs or teaching assistants to help children with additional needs who are not part of an autism class/unit
8. Let boys be boys and girls be girls...
9. STAMP OUT BULLYING

10. Fun, out door challenges , learn through play up to 6th class
11. Complete school work in school. No homework in primary school
12. Explain (in a fun way) why it's so important for them to go to school every day. Make it a safe & happy environment.
13. an engaging curriculum for highly able learners
14. Be open to communicating with parents
15. More liason officers
16. Uniform free instead of meals they don't eat
17. Unsure
18. Include everyone at everything regardless of ability
19. I think they do a good job
20. more interesting subject matter and more outings
21. Treat them all equally. Boys have feelings like girls. Boys thrive on praise like girls. Boys cry too. They need to be allowed to be human devoid of unrealistic demands of society embedded in the dark ages
22. Transport, welcoming and understanding atmosphere
23. Work with a child with diagnosis
24. not sure
25. Dont know
26. None really.
27. Fairness, avoiding unnecessary sanction for small issues that may be outside their control (few minutes late) and showing more respect to student personal needs (needing to use bathroom)
28. Transport to the school
29. Not sure
30. Movement breaks, access to SNAs, access to technology, art and play therapy.
31. Financial assistance if they desire
32. Unsure what else they can offer. It's probably afterschool to help parents who work.. to help parents with thr rushing and racing to activities. Our school do offer plenty of after school hours..
33. Free meals are starting next week, it is a very friendly school community I'm sure every child feels welcome.
34. More playful engaging experiences
35. By being more in tune with the children to find out what they need, by listening.
36. Friendship support
37. Understanding
38. Work with parent la to see what the issues are and apply for grants to help get busses for these children.
39. Maybe more after school activities. It will help the children to engage outside the normal school day. It will also help the children that are struggling, to distract their minds!
40. transport service, incentives, rewards

41. I don't know
42. None
43. More recreational activities during school breaks and lunchtime
44. I think they do alot already
45. Not sure
46. Rewards for attendance plus 10 minutes meditation or singing to improve wellbeing
47. Breakfast club
48. School are doing all they can, not necessarily school but homework nationally is not something as a parent I wholeheartedly agree with. I think if teenagers saw the sense as to why they are leaning the things in each subject, motivation, to help them, encourage nationally their creative or academic side, and learn where the motivation is. Then correspond from early on courses college pathways in certain areas that may be of interest to them music, drama, sport, a lot more linking in with secondary and college. Trips etc to these places would be brilliant. Past pupils talking about the route they took. Ordinary people working in different sectors or fields providing trips or Q&As to a classroom or break out in small groups with teenagers coming up with questions.
49. Extra support in class like an sna
50. They are good at keeping communication open.
51. Not necessary for my children
52. There are many children struggling with mental health in our school and the resource are non existent. Many kids are anxious about attending they need more liaison between home and school
53. Psychologists who teach them how to handle challenging moments in the best way possible and more training for teachers but above all for SNAs.
54. They are doing all they can with the resources they have at their disposal
55. Certainly in the junior classes more assistants around to help with them coming in from my experiences when my youngest went through a phase of not wanting to go in in Senior Infants. It was very hard to get extra help to get her in and I just needed another body as the teacher was occupied with the rest of the class.
56. Not sure
57. More sports activities
58. monthly certs.? house points etc
59. Sna
60. Not Sure
61. To say them What they will do next day(and be something motivated)
62. No idea
63. Teach how to read public transport timetables ,sponsor leap cards,bike helmet's,even rain coats
64. Enough staff to support teachers to manage a classroom with a lot of competing needs
65. Breakfast club may entice children if hungry
66. Have outdoor covered areas to help children escape from class when it's raining all day.

67. Arranging for parents who have capacity to do organised pick ups and drop offs for children whos parents are disengaged
68. Don't know
69. N/A
70. Less homework
71. Be led by the needs of the child as opposed to the rules for the majority.
72. Not sure. He goes every day but would prefer not to.
73. Treat everyone with basic respect and dignity. Identify and support children who are struggling.
74. Not sure
75. No sure that would depend on why the child doesnt want to go to school
76. Breakfast early morning club ...SNA's could run them.
77. They need support to become more aware about the problems regarding technology and with the family keep them as much as possible away from them.
78. Provide school lunch, homework club
79. Not sure
80. When school bus doesn't turn up reimburse parents cost of taxi
81. Attendance benefits, pizza party, school disco etc
82. Wraparound care so children could be dropped ear
83. Incentives for children
84. Identify more the needs of the children not just the way it's always been done.
85. If a child is coming from a disadvantaged background, a breakfast club or after school homework club would help ensure they get a decent meal, and keep them in a safe, education oriented environment. I'd love to see reading clubs in primary schools. Encouraging an interest in reading is a hugely positive thing.
86. Not standing in the cold waiting to go inside in winter
87. Reward system
88. Breakfast clubs, early drop off,
89. Dont know
90. Access to OT supports for the classroom understand sensory needs
91. N/A - plenty of supports already in place.
92. Breakfast club
93. Breakfast club or after-school, fun activities
94. More activities
95. A bit of guidance and help
96. No idea
97. I don't know
98. None as full participation incentives puts pressure on kids to attend when sick which impacts all.
99. More Additional Needs Assistants, more time for movement breaks for the children who need it. Breakfast club.

100. Unsure, as someone who came from a troubled home I went to school everyday to get a break from home issues.
101. Academic based doesn't suit each individual
102. Maybe a buddy system where children meet and walk in together
103. Reduce the extra activities that cost parents money to have their child join in.
Provide proper and adequate SET support to children who need it. Ensure that schools are run in a kind and welcoming manner, and that principals in particular are not allowed to go around shouting at children and making them feel upset. Bet the mental stability of principals in particular, to ensure that unbalanced individuals on a power trip are not allowed to run our schools.
104. Communication, why not attending. Not allow some parents take children out of school in term time, 1 wk centre parks, 1 mth Australia, same family same year. Fines needed like uk
105. Breakfast Club? Not sure.
106. Create a welcoming environment where all children feel valued and safe to be themselves. Provide a comfortable environment (this includes a playground that has some greenspace and an area to play even if you don't like ball sport. He feels unsafe in the yard, has been hit by balls and injured, including needing to seek medical attention in yard as there is no safe area to play away from ball sport area.
107. Personally we have no issues..breakfast club may benefit families who are having challenges
108. More interactive teaching style. Movement breaks. More life skills
109. I don't know. His attendance is very good now but has been bad in the past. The EWO was involved but it was left up to me to sort the problem out.
110. Use tablets allow children to keep warm
111. In post primary be more aware of children's individual needs and providing different lessons focused on their ability lessons
112. Unsure
113. I'm a new parent to school life so I'm not sure maybe more snacks
114. I'm really not sure
115. School transport, free school lunches
116. Encourage play learning
117. School guidance counsellors
118. More interaction with tutors
119. adequate number of SNAs, SENCO is holding back
120. More support such as time to sit and chat, a living/hang out room
121. More active
122. Not sure my child doesn't have a problem attending school
123. Help out with the cost of going to school
124. Move faith formation lessons outside school hours to create equality in the classroom. Increases awareness of how individual children prefer to learn, supporting

children who need a lot of movement in their day, and taking learning out of the classroom into different environments.

125. Therapists in school
126. Not sure
127. Hot lunch, support for kids with sensory needs, more psychosocial support
128. I don't know
129. Better understanding of other students struggles
130. Free hot dinners; free fruit and veg at break etc.
131. Not sure
132. A friendly adult to support. Spending hours trying to get them into school only for no one to be available especially if the child is dealing with anxiety, trying to regulate
133. School bus
134. City Connects which would provide every child with dedicated supports to meet their individual needs.
135. Offer more varied opportunities off the school grounds.
136. Children in general - depends on the reasons some children are reluctant to attend. Psychologists (ed) with training in school refusal. Expansion of HSCL. The stem in q12 doesn't seem correct?
137. None
138. Additional resources for emotional wellness e.g school counsellor/psychotherapist
139. Make it a more fun environment. Most kids see it as the same routine kind of thing and it be more fun for them if it was more fun and interactive.
140. Special ed
141. I don't know, to be sure
142. Learning support
143. Unsure
144. Breakfast club before school
145. School meals, more activities like yoga, music etc. parents maybe cannot afford these extras.
146. Subsidised hot meal, less targeting children about small things with uniform, create a positive environment. Less PR staged photoshoots for social media from schools and more help and support for children and their families
147. I think this is a really difficult thing to address as there are so many reasons for non attendance. Maybe drama/play therapy for the younger kids. I think a programme on how children's behaviour impacts other children's wellbeing could be helpful in the area of bullying. Where poverty and family issues are the source maybe a breakfast club or something so children are fed. Encouragement, consistently reminding children how beneficial it is to stay in school.. there are so many reasons children don't attend that it is hard to solve the issue with one solution.
148. support for learning differences etc
149. Better understanding of Neurodivergent kids.

150. Extra resources like sLT and OT
151. A family liaison officer would be a good idea, would also take some pressure off the principal
152. More external experiences like author readings, GAA training etc
153. Less competitive reasons to go to school rewards.would be better
154. Maybe a bus run for those who don't drive and depend on public transport
155. Not sure.
156. Give them extra help on things they are struggling with.
157. Breakfast club for all of school
158. additional support rooms
159. N/A
160. Don't know
161. Rewards or incentives - simple things like a pencil case, stationery, little note books or a certificate system. Kids love to be rewarded for achievements.
162. More support for children struggling academically, which is difficult in a gaelscoil but my child has been seated next to a particular struggling student the last 3 years and asked to help them.
163. Allowing kids more autonomy over how they learn, provide more opportunities to practice what they learn outside the classroom environment.
164. Make learning fun
165. Attentional help for Dyslexia, normalise it. A programme for confidence building.
166. Respect for children. Follow the ethos if the school in practice, not just words. Make it a place they want to show up to.
167. Provide healthy meals rich in protein and fibers
168. Every time I contact the school they are very helpful and supportive
169. More learning time outside, more movement
170. None
171. I think our school are very good in the regard.
172. More PE or just fun sports activity would help? For that, the school needs funding. Table tennis and the Chess Club are organised by a couple of teachers in school outside school hours and offered at a lower cost. It's optional. If there is one day that students get to stay another hour to do something they enjoy doing (at no cost to parents), that might help. It's something to look forward to and they get to spend time with their friends.
173. opportunity for child to come back to school outside normal school hours.
174. Inclusive activities
175. I don't know
176. I think they are doing a very good job
177. Food, opportunities for activities, uniform support
178. Don't know
179. all kids to get one to one to improve maths and spellings levels. More drama, music and project programmes

180. Attendance officer appointed who is firm but sympathetic and encouraging
181. I feel they are doing well already
182. more exercise breaks, fun experiments, more hands-on teaching
183. I don't know
184. At the minute I can't comment as I never see any kids not wanting to go in at drop off time
185. Less homework and enough free play opportunities / movement breaks (this to me is especially important once they reach secondary school level. They have too much weight on the academic side and have to sit for long periods, and this seems to put children off school a lot)
186. i don't know
187. By offering an alternative transport
188. More extra curricular activities arranged during school time and also on school grounds after school
189. Flexible timetable, more support and understanding for their autistic profile. Less reactivity and hostility from staff
190. Let them have what they want. My child has sensory issues and would be happy sometimes just in her pjs and crocs
191. More fun after school clubs and activities.
192. They could arrange some after school club or activities as well.
193. She goes to school every day. 0
194. Maybe recognition on a monthly basis for attendance
195. Maybe a call to the parents if the attendance is low to find out why!
196. Additional classes like mindfulness, recess breaks, more hands on learning activities
197. Transport, more trips in the school, different activities in the school
198. No homework would be a good idea as they already do enough in school I find it puts pressure on the child to be the same as everybody else
199. Not school, govt could support school transport more.
200. heating in secondary school! more support for harder subjects, tutorials etc.
201. Good pastoral care system. They have an open door policy and are approachable
202. Individual support after classes for children struggling as well as free early detection of all the DYS issues (not only dyslexia). Like dyscalculia, dysorthographie, dyspraxie...
203. I don't know
204. Music speech and drama badminton classes
205. After school for juniors to avoid double pick up times
206. Reduce homework
207. Have fun days
208. Extra classes after school, outdoor equipment, extra resources such as gardening

209. Flexible hours for kids who are frequently sick, without putting families under pressure about missed days. This should only be in the case of children with ongoing medical conditions of which a doctor can confirm.
210. Discourage phone and game use on school nights, offer parenting courses
211. Good communication with parents and family
212. Unknown- funding is an issue and pressure on schools when they identify a need but can't help as no financial support
213. Training for staff on school avoidance. More HSCL's. Level playing field in terms of necessary equipment and uniform.
214. Maybe disadvantaged children could get the bus like children for special education?
215. Enrichment activities for children, more outdoor learning, better schoolyard equipment, more music art and pe
216. Offer more extra curricular activities
217. Updated school policies and programme to be more in line with more recent studies into child behavioural psychology in education systems. No points based systems in class.
218. I think their doing an amazing job as it is
219. Additional building space for activities
220. An after school service
221. More choices for him, putting less pressure on him he's doing his best all rpund
222. ?
223. n/a
224. Nothing I can think of.
225. I think that the most important thing is for a child to feel safe at school, they should not be harassed by students or teachers. Bullying has a big impact on children not wanting to go to school and schools should be sensitive to that.
226. I don't know
227. That is the role of parents or guardians
228. I know if I did have concerns that the parent teacher and I could work together to get my kid to go to school, even if this ment them calling to collect him, or further encouragement.
229. By getting in other people to do sports and activities with the kids
230. Breakfast club
231. By doing fun interesting things with the kids and keeping them motivated
232. More SNA s
233. Fun learning activities, not just all book learning
234. No homework.
235. The hour between senior infants and 1st class where children need to be pick up at 2pm and 3pm very difficult and costly
236. I don't known
237. No much support as I know
238. I don't know.

239. As above
240. Less homework, more civil engagements, more group work, more autonomy
241. They can do no more it's how the child feels at school is important
242. We get the child there each day however schools should be compelled to deal with poor teaching approaches.
243. Not sure the school can do anymore as such
244. Dont know
245. I'm not sure. May be free hot meals to pre and post primary student on at least one or 2 days a week.
246. A text reminder or positive message in the morning
247. Social Care worker on site to follow up absenteeism
248. Encouragment
249. I'm not sure
250. Hot lunch
251. As above. Students want to go to school
252. Attendance awards
253. Healthy lunches, free buses, free uniforms. School to fund activity's and no request for money from parents.
254. None- it is parent's responsibility and the departments responsibility to ensure that those at risk of early leaving are not encouraged through weak box ticking attendance strategies to encourage children to attend school. The government need to be more robust about this. Schools are busy enough without producing certificates and attendance rewards that do nothing to target the children who don't attend due to lack of parental interest.
255. Engage pupils in fun activities that is not academically related but at same time they can learn and enjoy form such activities !
256. more support classes to learn English
257. Ensure there is adequate support staff
258. Have a specific teacher support them and encourage them into school everyday remind them they are doing good and need to keep it up, kids are sucknof listening to parents and might take better notice of a specific teacher that cheers them on
259. Free homework club
260. Na
261. Breakfast.?
262. I'm not sure
263. Maybe meet the parents physically and see what is going on & work with them to get the kids back to school
264. They could help more with supporting parents to access assessments for their child and not fob you off !
265. List of teachers that would do grinds would help

266. a personal contact that they can check in with if there is an issue at any stage, just knowing that there is someone who will help them to figure things out can make life a lot easier.
267. N/a
268. My child is Autistic, there is a lot they could do. Quite areas for lunch, locker away from the others, more staff training. There is a lot more.
269. More free time
270. I have seen them at the school gates encouraging children who are reluctant to go in. I don't know much about this but it is a struggle for some families.
271. Have signs up showing if your being unkind to someone, dont be an ass, come and talk to us! Take the power out of being a bully. Hard to believe in 2024 we still have expensive uniforms and kids being crushed in the system by not effectively addressing bullying
272. Breakfasts and lunch
273. Unsure
274. Removing 'late register' - some parents struggle to get kids to multiple schools on time and now with the additional parking challenges this is even more so. Provide early drop off options and after school care options
275. No homework, apart from maybe reading some tables
276. Perhaps some additional sports/activities for the kids that may have specific learning needs. Additional time to eat their lunch without feeling under pressure. We get this feedback alot in our house....didn't have time to eat????
277. Some students may benefit from longer hours of after school study.
278. My child is getting support in school for things he needs
279. Not sure.
280. N/A
281. homework support group, english support, breakfast club
282. not sure
283. Maybe have more pe and arts and crafts especially for the older classes. More programmes such as the Lego initiative and more Stem projects and hands on approach to learning. More music and singing to maintain a happy and fun environment.
284. Show more kindness, less shouting
285. make it interesting
286. ?
287. Having nice activities first thing in the day. My child's school offer great activities but my son still will give out about going to school. My daughter goes to school no matter what is happening.
288. Paying teachers to cover duty from earlier in the morning to facilitate parents trying to get to work
289. I don't know
290. Reduce or remove homework and outside of school tasks
291. ?

- 292. Unsure
- 293. I'm not sure
- 294. Allow the child to be respect don't treat them like babies eg correcting them over nose piercing ear piercing let them express themselves after all they are young adults
- 295. More time taken towards more PE related classes, etc
- 296. Not sure
- 297. Not sure
- 298. Less number of free class
- 299. I think that you are already doing everything,rest of the job is on parents.
- 300. More movement breaks and help with homework
- 301. Reward more frequently good attendance
- 302. Introduce the LCA asap as my child is wanting to leave school & by having the LCA in the school & some encouragement from teachers it might encourage him to stay on & do the LCA.
- 303. Get to the root of why the child is unhappy in school.
- 304. Don't know
- 305. Extra support teachers/ movement breaks/ more focus on child's academic performance rather than been based on sten scores
- 306. Provide buses on rainy days when parents have no transport so children are not wet coming into school.
- 307. Not sure
- 308. Break or home room where every child that is over or needs a few minutes can go during or between classes
- 309. Not sure.
- 310. Nothing as she is very happy
- 311. Lunches
- 312. Incentives - kids love rewards
- 313. not sure
- 314. I'm not sure, if the child is not in a supportive family.
- 315. na
- 316. Contacts of further help mabs, local groups
- 317. Survey for parents to ask what supports are needed. Homework club etc linking in with every parent on an individual way in a non judgemental and discreet manner
- 318. Have the equipment she requires to be able to have at least some access to the curriculum. She currently has none and is falling far behind her peers. She's at a point where she will never be able to catch up with them.
- 319. breakfast club might help
- 320. Less homework
- 321. Sensory room helps them to know what have somewhere calming to go while in attendance. Having a nice teacher or person there to welcome them on arrival
- 322. I don't know what they already offer so can't comment

323. Offer more support to parents meeting with them
324. Allow kids to be dropped off earlier avoid all the rush in the morning
325. It's a very academic school, pe is a max 1 hour per week, there is no drama classes, or choir or musical instrument classes, I think having these classes would include the non academic pupils & encourage them to be a part of something & have a reason to want to go in.
326. More SNA support as they are in the ground with kids of all needs but also a great support to kids that don't require help in the classroom but maybe a listening ear
327. No homework
328. Communicate with homes where children miss a lot of school
329. Reward system
330. More sna support, more personalised sen support
331. More diverse educational supports
332. Better induction to school, group activities at lunchtime to encourage friendships/ play so shy children don't feel alone/ outcasts.
333. Hot meals
334. Blanket rules Implementing inclusion understanding wellbeing/wellness not just having these in writing
335. Rewards for full attendance
336. Provide nutritional food, trips & extra curricular activities for free
337. IT equipment
338. Refund parents if child misses the school bus and has to get taxi or alternative bus for trying to make sure child attend school
339. Breakfast club, homework club, free lunches. Extra curriculars outside of class work.
340. As stated above
341. My child has a card that allows her to leave the class and go to a support teacher when feeling anxious without a teacher questioning
342. Breakfast club, a kinder attitude, relax with the uniform policy.
343. use the sensory room as a first port of call for children who do not want to go into line/classroom
344. Hot meals
345. Awards scheme - points for attendance and a treat at the end of the term, children enjoy a competition. Provide short term courses in different activities to expose children to new things!
346. My event planing for children to get involved and arts and crafts for homework
347. Hot meals
348. Breakfast club and maybe a free homework club
349. Less homework especially if chikd is getting learning support. Address any kind of bullying
350. A transport service

- 351. I don't know we first month in a school
- 352. Not required, again should be focused on schools with high levels of deprivation
- 353. sensory room, chill out area
- 354. More yard space, they are on pre-fabs at the moment with very limited space to play/run
- 355. Unsure
- 356. Fun lunchtime activities for free
- 357. Hot school lunches and more home school liaison support
- 358. Not sure
- 359. N/A
- 360. School absences is not a huge concern in my children's' school. However improvement awards of class achievement awards on top attendance could be fun for the kids. Although I do understand it could put pressure on kids who are
- 361. As above support friendliness
- 362. Treat them with more respect. Less silly rules
- 363. Transport. Anxiety counselling
- 364. Not sure
- 365. The meals would help
- 366. Provide after school care for infants classes for one hour
- 367. Not sure
- 368. She's fine once she's in and teacher is very supportive
- 369. Do away with the extra financial cost on parents for participating in some extra curricular activities
- 370. Access to free school lunches our school didn't sign up to it
- 371. No homework. No irish
- 372. Kids living close to the school helps, parents working fulltime also as school can be extra childcare. Good hand hygiene and cleaning to keep illnesses from spreading in Winter and Spring.
- 373. Petition the department of education to run a bus service.
- 374. More support teachers more pod learning in smaller groups the teachers my sons school are exceptional and my daughters school they do the bare min more whole school evaluations needed! Tv and I pad bring used to much I limit my kids but kids are getting so much in certain households then again at school concentration levels are dipping research has told us tv and I pad etc should be limited to 2 hours
- 375. Not sure
- 376. Homework support
- 377. Not sure
- 378. I don't know because we bring our children to school, and it has never occurred to us not to bring them.
- 379. After school s

- 380. To the kids that needs extra support to learn , make that support easier to get instead of all the hoops that we have to jump to get the gadget if that is the problem.
- 381. More proactive links with community psychology supports
- 382. Fun activity's
- 383. Train teachers to pick up on any struggles some kids have learning in conventional ways, instead of labelling some kids who have not been diagnosed as ADHD/ADD. Teachers need to be fully trained to pick this up and lots of kids are struggling and don't realize they are different, but instead believe they aren't good enough.
- 384. Do an everyday counts raffle, attendance awards possibly
- 385. Offer More fun activities, offer dance classes, learn to cycle programs
- 386. Breakfast club, homework club cheap after school care
- 387. Attendance awards.
- 388. afterschool, breakfast club, more field trips, easier parking at drop off
- 389. Unsure
- 390. Transportation option if not within walking distance
- 391. N/a
- 392. More support for children with additional needs. We only have 2 assessments per year but could easily fill two or three more ASD classes. Disruptive behavior in class from a very high number of children with additional needs is an issue.
- 393. Sna
- 394. Na
- 395. Sports
- 396. walk/cycle to school programme organised by school & parents everyone goes into school in small groups not individually.
- 397. Provide transport for every child who needs it.
- 398. Im not sure
- 399. Well a unit would be helpful, as we applied to 15 and were refused we were forced into mainstream
- 400. School trips or visits
- 401. more extra cirricular activites of interest to kids to give them a reason to go to school even if its just soccer after school that motivates them
- 402. Breakfast club, homework club
- 403. Hot meals,
- 404. More Support teachers, more SNAs and outdoor activities
- 405. Not sure
- 406. more often to have parent-teacher meeting
- 407. Contact with parents ,learning support with child
- 408. None. Hse could do a lot though
- 409. They do an excellent job
- 410. Stop isolation, lack of inclusion to no inclusion
- 411. Extra activités to motivate kids - sports, drama, quizzes etc

412. N/A
413. I don't know
414. Since covid there has been a very strict line of now allowing parents enter the school anymore. As a child I remember parents coming into school to see art work, meet face to face with teachers. With this there's a sense of pride that the child shows. Also more after school activities for people who may have hostile family situations. Better meal selections. Less emphasis on homework as some parents struggle to help a child and therefore the child feels pressure the next day to show it. Even homework clubs would help prevent this. Groups to help children walk to and from school to their home safely as now more families are working extra jobs or unsocial hours to keep up with the financial demands therefore a lot more kids are left to walk home themselves or older siblings to try help with the drop offs and collections.
415. Prizes, recognition and motivational support.
416. Never have had an issue with my children attending school.
417. They are always happy to go in to school.
418. Bus transport
419. NA
420. More leisure activities
421. Organized transport for all pupils
422. They do very well, I think they're doing everything they can
423. Don't know
424. More opportunities to learn, like STEAM education, more meaningful after school activities
425. Not sure
426. Perhaps a breakfast club and transport to school
427. Less pressure. No homework. More inclusive. Not every kid is sporty for example
428. Make it fun by running certain events etc.
429. free extracurricular activities
430. Address any issues that are affecting their happiness in school.
431. School lunch.
432. None
433. Intermix of care and many others
434. For primary school kids, it's really the parents that would need help in order to get the kids in the door.
435. They are currently doing a great job supporting my child
436. I think they do their best
437. Bus service, cycle club,
438. Start school at 9am to allow children be in on time.
439. More fun activities
440. I really think our school is offering every support that is required
441. Additional gym time/ exercise time

- 442. None
- 443. They should introduce a form class reward for full attendance each term so they all have something to work towards. Like a points system- each class group has to hit a certain amount of points to get a reward.
- 444. Nothing. The school do enough already.
- 445. Simple check in with students especially at post primary give students a voice...ask how they are... respond to their individual needs
- 446. Competitions and prizes
- 447. Tutor
- 448. Find a way to reach the parents, incentives for the child don't work at primary level as they are too dependent on the parent to bring them
- 449. Have an empathetic approach as to why children have high absenteeism
- 450. Hot meals
- 451. Maybe offering homework club for all after school. Fun activities, promote well-being to help children that are stressed, have someone adequately skilled and trained for this matter.
- 452. Hot dinners
- 453. Inclusion
- 454. I don't know
- 455. Positive feedback; praise & encouragement. Explanation to parents & children why attendance is so important.
- 456. N/a
- 457. Emphasis the importance of being there in class.
- 458. Hot school meals
- 459. Financial assistance
- 460. After school homework club or extracurricular activities
- 461. No homework
- 462. I think the school needs more support from department of education
- 463. Dedicated school bus ran by the school for local children only
- 464. They have been brilliant to help get every child into school
- 465. None needed
- 466. Being more proactive with parents...nit a them and us situation especially in a small school
- 467. I not sure with is the school jobs, but could offer a bus to take the kids.

Q16. How could your child's school further help your child take part in activities that go on in their school?

- 1. Provide more free activities
- 2. Unsure

3. Help with costs of school tours so they don't feel isolated not being able to go
4. Its not up to the schools to provide more than education...leave the schools alone and lobby the government about limiting the number of immigrants being sent to schools who cant cope with the influx
5. Not focus on GAA solely
6. Fundraise or something so parents don't have to pay for those activities.
7. Offer sports at no extra cost
8. Offer all activities free
9. Organise more afterschool activities
10. cost of school tour is high; constant requests for money - 2 euro for cake sale; money for sponsored walk;
11. Reduce the cost of tours
12. Fundraiser more
13. They need to be funded by the dept. of education, parents should not have to pay and fundraise for programmes offered by the school, DEIS is a very unfair way of funding schools.
14. Ask parents to drive
15. I don't know
16. no idea
17. Communicate with parents consistently and collaborate
18. Telling parents, being open about activities, Letting people request activities like music generation
19. subsidies or grants
20. An inclusion policy for all activities(sport or otherwise) and encouragement that its taking part as a school participant not "ability" that matters!
21. There are costs to trips etc, and this is fair, the school take the costs into consideration, and try and not put too many costs on families.
22. More notice of arrangements and costs, understanding that not every child has a parent at home who can collect at different times other than the standard school collection times
23. Activities with no cost
24. Reduce the cost
25. The school would never refuse a child who wanted to do extra curricular activities or tours. They would ensure all children get the same opportunities regardless of cost.
26. Have a system where poorer families can apply for cost reduction, payment plans
27. Everything costs money, hiring buses etc which schools dont own. So there will always be a cost to tours however minimal.
28. We pay in full for all activities. But it is often a stretch to finances. We do not fall into any category that gets assistance
29. Offer some choices
30. By encouraging them and asking what they need.

31. Stop charging for them, stop charging for everything, even the homework club costs a lot of money and we were told there was a grant for it; Our school constantly charges for activities, photo copying. Buses to and from matches, €2 non jumper days all the time.
32. More activities. Not enough extra curricular activities.
33. fee reductions
34. I don't know
35. The cost is subsidised by Deis and the parents council so the costs are minimal but constant all the same.
36. Apply for grants
37. Make them a full class event rather than a choice
38. Subsidise further but i dont think this is practical
39. Keep costs at a minimum
40. Ensure the parents are directly aware of the activities, rather than assume the child has passed on the info
41. Offer lower prices
42. If extra activities were resourced by the Department of Education it might be different but someone has to pay for trips. TY is very expensive and a luxury some families couldn't afford.
43. I offered my service to run the Geography CBA locally on our river. My background is in Aquatic Ecology and Environmental management. I offered to do it freely as they currently bring the class in a bus 1hr away at a cost of €40. What I would do with them would cover a CBA they have yet to take me up on it.
44. financial and support facilities
45. Subsidise activities
46. I m not sure as someone has to pay the out of hrs extra class teachers
47. Allow sponsorship from those that can afford it
48. Increase financial assistance
49. Provide opportunities. Schools are under a lot of pressure
50. This summer school trips were all €40 so that was €120 for my 3 and then €5 spending and then €2 for Sports Day and then School fair and cake sale was another €20, and then their Sports team had end of session to Mc Donald's in a 2week period any excess outside of mortgage, utilities went to kids .That meant I was cutting up track pants for shorts for summer. Schools need to look at additional costs June has become as expensive as December. Even the price of the school concert tickets went up, to cover cost of girl training them. Why aren't DEIS funds used for this.
51. The cost would have to be cover for activities to take place
52. Parents have to pay for all the buses so this limits extra activities, in medium sized non deis schools, classes are often merged resulting in supersized 30+ classes, parents are always supplementing activities as the school gets no extra funds so in contrast our kids dont get to go on activities involving busses often as it would often amount to 10/15 euro per trip per child

53. Child is slow to participate unless its within the classroom environment, eg if speech and drama was a class taught module for a couple of weeks the child would be more likely to participate
54. At the moment they have to raise money through the Parents association
55. I don't know
56. Encouragement
57. As above, fund school trips as can create an us/them
58. The school is not a deis school and therefore has to fundraise and charge parents a contribution towards things that they would like to provide such as free meals, counsellors ets - things that a deis school in the same area gets automatically. Perhaps it is time for all of the schools in our town (the same economic disadvantage) to have Deis status.
59. Means test parents.....give help we're needed.
60. If is fun and careful to be all well integrated.
61. Be more inclusive, most activities are sports, kids who are not good at sports are excluded
62. They only offers sports, for non sporty children, art classes or similar would be appreciated.
63. Provide refund for extra bus payment or taxi parents would have to pay as their child would miss school bus home.
64. Less focus on competition and more on the fun side of partaking.
65. Offer discounted price for one parent families.
66. Communicate all planned activities at the start of the year with an optional payment plan and clarity on which costs are optional if any
67. Get involved in more extra circular activities and promote them more. Allow parents input and help
68. If a child needs financial support, activities should be free. However this must be means tested! If people can pay, they should pay.
69. School tour costs way too much
70. Reward system for attendance and win school trip for free
71. More funding is needed for school to enable this
72. Equal opportunity for all children - not the same children being picked for every team based on athletic ability
73. Sliding scale payments?
74. Cover the cost of those activities
75. Free activities
76. Actual "free" schooling. There's constant pressure to fund
77. No idea
78. I don't know
79. Make more affordable for parents
80. Create more after-school clubs and have a breakfast club
81. They would help if the extra activity and school trips would be free, but that is not the case

82. I find the school very good, children take part in various committees in the school, have chores to do in class, they have interesting visitors and activities weekly. I think if the child is inquisitive then school will appeal to them somehow.
83. Part funded,
84. Payment plans.
85. Reduce costs for TY Programme and transport costs and referee costs
86. I have no suggestions
87. Not able to ask for help, embarrassing about trips, 50 euro. Film festival 20.
88. Provide a variety of opportunities that appeal to all children. All very heavily sports orientated which my son has little interest in.
89. Include info in texts etc for parents to contact school if they are struggling
90. Introduce new activities that my child would be interested in
91. Anything that goes on is mandatory, apart from swimming which parents pay for.
92. Provide a teacher to coach rugby
93. Payment plans , online payi
94. Unsure
95. By doing different activities and using the wider community to volunteer if they have skills that kids would like to learn or just experience reach out to parents see what they can do
96. I suppose lessen the cost, spread the payment across the duration of the course,
97. Dont charge for activities during the school day
98. Provide more information and society stalls to make it easy to new comers to see what's available.
99. As above cost is prohibitive at a set €2000 to participate in any extra curriculars.
100. Extra support from non teaching staff
101. My child is disabled and support is not offered to allow him take part in sports
102. A little more affordable
103. Cost isn't a barrier for us but it could be for other families. The Parents Association could look for sponsorship from private/corporate sources to cover the cost of extra activities and school tours.
104. Have them as part of the school day
105. Cover the cost of the school trip.
106. Not sure
107. Na
108. Wider variety. Free transportation.
109. Online payment options etc.; afterschool club.
110. Don't know
111. More opportunities other than sports or Homework club
112. They're very supportive and all children take part
113. If every child was surveyed about their interests, perhaps the school could match the children to activities relevant to their interests, e.g., Chess, LEGO clubs, gymnastics, dancing, sports, art, cookery, etc.

114. More sport classes(cheerleading or football)
115. Subsidize the cost of busing.
116. Utilise parents with experience who could offer the extra curricular activities free of charge
117. Provide transport for after school activities
118. Difficult with the inadequate funding from the DofEd.
119. Offer free spaces to those struggling
120. Resource houra
121. I think the school my child goes to have no much after school activities at all.
122. Not sure.
123. There should be more after school activities
124. By providing them free of charge
125. Make them cheaper
126. More extra activities
127. Make things inclusive for all
128. Again very difficult, kids don't want to be left out nor do they want to feel like a charity case.
129. More funding needs to be available
130. subsidise heavily/free
131. Better support for Neurodivergent kids, understanding of how to involve them with social activities
132. A lot of activities are free but some such as swimming are expensive, usually short notice given for these activities, more notice and payment plan options would be good. As currently, we found out about swimming 2 weeks ago, it had to be paid 2 days later
133. Make it available to everyone and to those who want to take part
134. Not sure
135. Offer free /cheaper rates / space out payments / tell parents way ahead of time upcoming costa for outings
136. Removing financial barriers
137. If you pay for a trip and your child for some reason can't attend the money should be returned
138. Give parents the cost outline for everything for the uncoming year ie voluntary contributions, supplies fees, school tours etc and give different payment options or all upfront, monthly payments etc
139. If they had funding to provide these trips and activities. They already do a great job fundraising but it's a lot to ask of all parents
140. Support the children that need a little leg up
141. Funding provided
142. Their is not enough money or resources available to help schools support those who are less fortunate. Teachers are stretched to limits and get the brut from parents who can't see it's not the teachers fault. In an ideal world free schools would be nice but

unfortunately getting resources & activities and tours or trips cost money and the schools don't receive enough to cover it all. Buses are so expensive to rent for football matches/Blitz. Unfortunately it has to be put out to us parents sometimes to contribute towards costs.

143. There aren't many activities and those that do exist, cost, that I am aware of.
144. At them moment, I don't believe there are any extra activities going on during or after school hours. I would love to see an array of options to suit all kids interests such as pottery or art classes, sports, drama, music. I'd happily pay for these if they were provided.
145. My school doesn't provide enough places in Extra Curricular activities. Sprit is the lowest cost activity, that could be provided after school - and its ignored by the school until kids reach 5th class. Sport options are also limited. I would prefer if children spent less time being bored with wasted hours, and more active learning time. Many times, my kids teachers leave them for up to an hour with no lessons...they literally sit in the class completely bored. This is detrimental to their academic outcome.
146. They are doing there best to keep costs down
147. More extra curricular activities which are free of charge. Activities tend to exclude those who cannot pay for them
148. Make them free
149. We are very fortunate financially to pay for school trips and other activites that incurr fees. I personally don't mind contributing but I do believe these should be of no cost to financially struggling families. There should be mor activities that are available to every child without a financial cost.
150. maybe include a music/fashion/film/other pop culture activities
151. Have a reduced payment plan
152. Include all ages in all sports
153. raise fund for families that may need support to take part in school activities
154. Hardship fund
155. We fundraise to supplement cost on parents
156. More scientific, music and drama programmes
157. Encourage talents and low financial cost
158. Financial adjustments
159. better advertisement - sometimes you aren't aware what's on
160. Have a school bus for trips
161. Not look for donations
162. I don't know
163. Make it affordable or low cost or funded for those on lower means and encourage them / educate them about the benefits of partaking
164. I feel there needs to be an extra emphasis on music
165. They could reduce or eliminate the costs associated with these activities
166. Autism training for all staff. Empathy. Considering sensory needs when planning activities. Practicing actual inclusion

167. By giving a discount off some clubs
168. We are lucky we can afford any costs the school asks. I don't actually know what does happen if you can't.
169. My kids are always up for school activities during and after school, sometimes we have to say no to after school thing like the homework club because it's an extra cost we can not afford.
170. Including more activities based on kids' interests, maybe grouping with different interests
171. I don't know
172. Tours and busses will always cost money
173. Provide funding towards the activities eg money for buses to blitzes etc
174. Raising money for people who can't afford it or even if the school could pay part of the expense with activities.
175. It shouldn't be up to the school itself but cheaper extracurricular activities.
176. I like extra curriculums and will pay for them as much as possible!
177. N/a
178. Schools need funding to fund extra activities
179. Provide more choice of options, especially in non sporting activities such as drama, dance, social groups and provide more available slots
180. Makes them more affordable
181. They don't have any financial support available for tours and in particular the cost of buses for tours etc has gone so high
182. Provide the equipment for the offered activities.
183. New school being built so they will have a free PE hall soon.
184. My school offers very little activities and they all have a cost for the activity and the transport.
185. Free trips and transport
186. I don't know
187. Try not to burden parents with costs
188. The government could give the school enough money to run and cover all costs so they don't have to constantly fundraise and ask parents to contribute
189. We can pay the cost of the trips and activities, but sometimes they are really expensive. Would be nice if the school could apply for discounted price.
190. If trips etc during the school day were funded from general fundraising this might make sure no one is left out.
191. I don't know
192. Maybe outside rain shelters so the children can run in out of the rain.
193. They can't do anything without grants
194. By subsidising them
195. Reduce the cost for child who can't afford.
196. Give them tasters and make the activities fun

197. Reduce their workload. Make the day shorter. Introduce more activities they will enjoy and that will benefit them.
198. Assisting parents with financial costs of activities school trips, swimming lessons, life skills
199. I don't know
200. Free or subsidised school activities, curricular and extra-curricular.
201. After school activities should be done in school time. Children finish in the winter when it's dark and girls especially don't want to have to travel by bus in the dark.
202. Really it is up to the child some like it and others don't
203. Don't know.
204. Encouragement and support for children who are not involved in any extra curricular activities. Making at least one extra curriculum activity a must in secondary school. It could be either physical sports or something like chess. Just give the child an opportunity for healthy competition and learning to appreciate the value of Victory and loss. Especially team building and a structured approach to life along with using pent up energy and emotions to something creative and useful like painting etc..
205. Offer some free places
206. Have Schools pay for all trips
207. Have non competitive but active sports as well as the more competitive for those that excel in these areas. Have more outlets for creative and performance based activities. subsidise or find ways to help fund more diverse extracurricular programmes.
208. Ensure equipment & team gear is supplied otherwise it would place me under huge financial pressure to supply them
209. Free places
210. Either no activity or totally funded by the school
211. A fund for families who are struggling
212. The schools they attend are very good at encouraging all children to take part
213. Talk with them and don't mention the cost side of things as they won't even mention it to their parents when they know they are struggling financially, children feel guilty where parents feel shame for not have the financial means
214. Provide transport to matches, stop charging for bus to swimming on top of cost of swimming lessons
215. Government use school busses to transport to activities during school day instead of paying independently owned bus companies that charge crazy prices
216. Free of charge
217. If there is a cost for an activity, the school provides aid to those who have difficulty finding the money but they also try to keep these costs as low as possible. Further funding to more significantly reduce these amounts would be a further help.
218. Maybe if there was a problem parents could let the school know in confidence, and then a quiet arrangement could be made for that child from school funds

219. Maybe do a student survey and ask the children what they would like in their school. Let their voice be heard in what the money fundraised throughout the year goes to.
220. 🙄
221. discreet availability of help if a student needs is, without making the child stand out and being noticed by their peers
222. School trips are paid for
223. Depends on the trip. Some require transportation. For most trips and activities it isn't a problem. This year my child's class are going to London, that is expensive. The school are doing their best.
224. They could provide some equipment so that families don't have to pay for a lot of expensive equipment
225. Parents always pay for the busses for all trips, maybe this is covered for some families, I don't know as although we have some financial troubles we haven't asked about this.
226. Free transportation
227. Reduce the costs.
228. There are none started as yet. Communicate the details to the parents so the parents can encourage participation. We are left out of the loop all the time and not used to our potential
229. Reduce costs of activities like school trips. The prices are eye-watering. How can an overnight trip to England cost 350?
230. Price. Money is requested for trips or swimming with less than a week notices giving by parents no time to plan
231. More activities where children could learn various things about nature, financial education, social behaviour
232. Better information on what activities are available either free or otherwise, more free options, remove requirement to have parents walk kids from class to extra curricular events which occur on school grounds
233. More department funding so that the pressure is not on parents to fund
234. Financial supports
235. Pay for bus fees.....£4 to the Finn Valley is excessive I think
236. Discretion is used with families with regards to payment for extra curricular fee based activities. Payment by instalments is welcomed rather than large fees at once.
237. Subsidise activities such as cycling, swimming etc.
238. Cut out the cost on parents
239. If there was extra funding in place to cover the cost of school tours, swimming classes, music classes
240. Be creative in what's on offer and get more feedback from children themselves to see what would interest them.
241. Encouragement and praise
242. Introduce classes e.g. Art, singing, dancing, drama etc

243. By the government covering the cost as its "free education" what someone wears shouldn't be an issue, they are there to learn.
244. Parents council fundraising to help pay for some
245. subsidize
246. ?
247. Free bus to trips in school time.
248. Unsure, I feel the school is doing all they can
249. Buses to school matches should be paid for by the school as should referees
250. More communication
251. Make parents more aware that they can spread payments on Way2Pay
252. Send out a timetable of activities to parents to discuss with their children
253. Provide them for free
254. Make it free of charge
255. Do some outdoor activities or outdoor exercises, introduce fun activities that will make them enjoy school & encourage them to keep good attendance
256. Lower cost if possible, encouragement to take part.
257. Provide activities that children can do as a taster session first.
258. With more government funding
259. Payment plans with smaller payments over a longer time
260. Sponsorship for trips/tours to help lower costs on parents
261. Provide notifications earlier and allow for payments to be spread over a longer period of time. Last year between swimming lessons and school tours for 3 children in 24 hours I was asked for over €200 from the school. For lots of families that would have been the choice between having food in the presses.or not for a week
262. Fundraising
263. Bus service
264. Cant do much more!
265. my child is very active as a world championship standard irish dancer presently 15th in the world under 13 in 2024
266. Fundraising to subsidise bus trips etc.
267. Better funding
268. I hope they pay for school tours for those who need in. Also stationary supplies and PE suppliembt we pay.
269. subsidies
270. Parents association could be stronger to improve links
271. Provide low cost or free activity.
272. Don't know
273. They can make it more cost effective for struggling families
274. More funding from Dept of Ed so parents/schools don't need to fund
275. Free school trips

276. There are limited activities in my childrens school, if they play GAA there are matches but if they are away it's €5 each for the bus. I think they would have to start up activities first as there isn't any
277. Help with Bus costs as prices have increased and parents have to pay for any trip regarding any activities during school day which is ridiculous
278. Don't limit sports activities to chosen few
279. Not an issue everyone is included
280. School have reduced tge voluntary contributions and try to keep costs down but we aren't a deis school do receive little
281. Make all activities free for all
282. Remove the cost of extra curricular activities
283. Free for low income household
284. Better communication with parents/guardians preparation for fees or cover all costs for all students
285. Unsure they encourage them all
286. Provide them for all children free of charge
287. Organise transport and accommodation for distant events (even at cost). Rural schools should be given an additional travel budget to accommodate this and ensure inclusivity (particularly for events taking place in Dublin which require an overnight stay at extortionate cost) .
288. Not charging extra activity and provide alternative transportation to get children home as school bus is gone
289. All activities that are ran are usually parents volunteering as this is not something available in the school.
290. Not sure, everything costs in ireland
291. Not charge extra for activities done during school hours
292. My child takes part in all activities because she does not struggle socially and we can pay for all activities.
293. Wider breath of activities, especially musical. Sports such as basketball to be offered to all ages.
294. In an ideal world, increased funding, but we must also recognise the Dept have done a lot for financial burden on parents in terja if books, etc.
295. Constantly trying to recruit, give reward points for getting involved
296. Offer payment plans for after school activities
297. Subsidies for children that cannot afford extra
298. My children are excluded from extra curricular activities because I work and all activities occur during working hours. I cannot drop and pick them up as they are in another childcare facility
299. take time to invite and encourage - provide materials and 'come and try' time
300. More activities. School lacks of activities extra curriculum
301. Unsure

302. Ask for government funding. Fees are paid each year by Patents who can and others don't. School then curbs some activities
303. The small extra cost add up, especially when you have more than one student
304. Free school tours, swimming lessons, etc
305. If they had funding like DEIS schools to fund some of these things to prevent having to pay the 'voluntary' contribution that puts working families in financial distress.
306. Make them more interesting. Get the kids involved in organising them
307. Free after clubs for all funded by the department
308. Not cost as much as it does
309. Use fund raising to help pay for school trips
310. dont ask parents to pay for buses and tickets to parks
311. All activities come with a cost. Lots of families attending this school simply can't afford it. 1 or 2 activities with no cost would be great.
312. Not sure
313. Swimming and any trips are paid by parents. It's not fair most support goes to hurling kids
314. Have no additional charge
315. We are in the lucky position that we can afford to send our child to anything he wants, but not all working families can because they earn too much for supports but cost of living has increased and they are financially stretched.
316. Just put on activities and they will go if they like them.
317. For kids with special needs or learning disability it would be easier to get activities that better suits them than all standard for everyone.
318. I'm not sure.
319. Activity's
320. Ensure these activities are free, some are funded by board of management, but not all. Some activities, like logo, were organised and only after the sessions had finished, were the parents contacted to pay for the activity.
321. Not sure
322. They seem to already do everything that they can. They aren't responsible for providing extra-curricular activity (outside of the school day). Any tours require a bus hire so there is always a cost involved.
323. i don't know
324. There are some that is free but others that are not.
325. Give option of voluntary payment or subsidise for those that cannot afford
326. N/a
327. Provide funding for after school activities for all children and for school trips. We have to limit where we can take the children to cost of €35 but that leaves them at a disadvantage of not being able to go to key places of interest. Provide funds for a school bus. Provide a hall for us to use.
328. Somewhere that doesn't cost money

- 329. More variety of courses, art, music, languages
- 330. fundraising events that go towards the cost of the bus or activity to reduce the payment for parents.
- 331. Not my job
- 332. No charges
- 333. I think they do a very good job of getting my child involved. It is the financial cost of the extra activities that hurt.
- 334. increase the variety of options for sporty and non-sporty kids. eg, manga club, gaming club, chess club
- 335. Free activities
- 336. Music gen is an additional cost - they could pay for this
- 337. free extra-curricular activities
- 338. Chat about kids having to do these activities and encourage the kids more
- 339. I am not aware of any activities
- 340. Supply costumes for plays etc.
- 341. Every activity has a cost, but the school doesn't have enough supports from dept of education to absorb the costs themselves for any families that can't afford it
- 342. Including parent in decision making
- 343. Add the same activities be available for all years not just selected years. Waive fees for families who do not meet a certain financial criteria.
- 344. They are already fully participating.
- 345. Make it more affordable
- 346. I don't know
- 347. For families on very low income provide grants for day trips where there is a charge
- 348. Mire sport for classes other than 6th
- 349. Maybe a payment plan, in confidence
- 350. Fine for our child but other families might need the activities to be at least subsidised
- 351. We pay a voluntary contribution which provides different activities throughout the year . Like swimming, yoga etc.
- 352. Inform the parents of whats happening and on offer so they could also entice the child to go. My son in particular never tells me of the after school activitaties available
- 353. Find out what interests the students and try to support them by holding activities/clubs and assist with any equipment that may be required.
- 354. Make them free and available
- 355. They already go above and beyond, heavily relying on Teachers goodwill and unpaid time, I could honestly never ask more of them.
- 356. Grass pitch, rubber matting, obstacle type / climbing equipment, outdoor chalk board, soft ball & nets, table tennis, badminton,
- 357. Provide buses
- 358. No activities in school

- 359. Maybe a yearly plan for pay over time for extra activities
- 360. They are already doing a great job try to be fully inclusive.
- 361. Encouragement. Praise.
- 362. More trips for kids
- 363. Subsidise trips
- 364. Offer subsidies to low income families
- 365. Cover the cost
- 366. More free activities, everything they do doesn't need to be expensive
- 367. Maybe cover some financial part of the activities
- 368. Could be funding from Deot
- 369. Pay for the bus but that's not fair on the school either. Bus companies charge a ransom
- 370. Organise and go on more educational trips that will benefit the child's education.
Show the child there's more to education than just in classroom.
- 371. More indoor activities,such as: badminton.rope skipping.table tennis, basketball
(most bad weather)
- 372. Don't know
- 373. Department of education needs to support more - I don't mind paying for things like
tours and extra activities but not every child has that ability
- 374. Offer a better range of activities that aren't only based around sports as this isn't
inclusive to children with additional needs or children with medical conditions. Great
example would be a brick club (lego)
- 375. There are no extracurriculars offered at my child's level.
- 376. Vary them...always same ones year after year.
- 377. Maybe offer more extra-curricular without paying like music.
- 378. Free transport for swimming lessons etc

Q25. What one thing do you suggest should be done to support children with social or financial challenges?

- 1. If school is free, why have parents pay for the insurance, it should be ALL covered.
- 2. At a minimum swimming classes should be free
- 3. More family support
- 4. They they don't feel left out
- 5. scholarships for local private schools
- 6. subsidies
- 7. Less cost
- 8. Learn from schools that are doing a good job
- 9. In our case stop putting pressure on parents to give funds- stop asking for fund raising, stop making the children go to matches and making us pay for it- other schools manage the bus payments themselves.

10. Find what motivates them early. Less social media, no youtube, tik tok, filter Instagram, or all of these. Snapchat limited from an early age only parents see who they can add etc. More help for parents re phones around parental control. Finance maybe like TY doing mini company, maybe from an early age 1st year on, if doing business etc again small groups get them to come up with business ideas and set up and correspond with the curriculum. More learning but doing activity to have a visual or an interest to gage with the theory side of things.
11. The school needs to think before it imposes additional financial burden on families and listen to parents when they ask our opinion. TY was introduced last year at an astronomical cost. At the initial meeting introducing the programme they completely dismissed a parent who was open about her finances circumstances. There's seems to be no empathy to the additional finances burden to parents
12. Help with back to school expenses
13. Sponsor the basic food,travel clothing costs.Once a child has the same as everyone else at a base level it becomes fairer
14. The books are free, school lunches are free, i see very little space for improvement by the school. Perhaps uncrested uniform items could be purchased from generic clothing shops.
15. Offer breakfast club to all students, offer snacks as well as hot lunches
16. Reach out to them on a personal level
17. Help them feel that they belong.
18. all schools should receive the same funding/benefits to ensure that no child is disadvantaged in their school life.
19. Funds for school tours
20. Financial support i think maybe choose between tracksuit or uniform would cut costs in half for anyone struggling
21. Not sure
22. Group adult and child activities after school to promote the joy of learning
23. Give them options of places to get help
24. Provide school uniforms, footwear and schoolbags.
25. Information on places to get help
26. Increase deis funding
27. Involve the children with choice
28. Offering after school activities. When I was in primary myself several teachers used to stay after school to run free music lessons on different instruments or to coach basketball and football.
29. Smaller group work , would give children an opportunity to be more comfortable socially
30. I don't know
31. Group outing, friendship bench where they can take their time to decompress or talk about what's bothering theme
32. Provide more well being activities
33. Staff are great but overstretched, so more support staff

34. Keep an eye on them and ensure they aren't getting bullied because of financial challenges
35. Counseling service for a child neglected by one of the parents
36. Not sure
37. Support the parents
38. Free laptops-all first years have to pay 500 euro for a laptop, that's before another 400 on crested uniforms, pe gear and coats- these costs need to be tackled
39. Provision of access to after-school activities
40. Breakfast club, after schools program and no homework - you don't know what circumstances kids go. home toos
41. School trips should be paid by the school
42. Payment plans for all expenses
43. There should be more activities that aren't costly. And don't force the kids into anything they don't want to do.
44. More spaces on scp. And more family focused. (EG Trip to zoo in summer. Lone parents not allowed to take adult children with them but both parents could go in dual relationship. I am single mum with both physical and mental difficulties. Was not equal at all.)
45. More information available it should be general so no stigma attached
46. Services for SLt
47. Parental support.is essential which is offered by our school.
48. Free extra curricular activities outside school
49. Empathy and communication between home and school are key, putting the child's well being front and centre
50. Free stationery
51. I don't know
52. Diagnosis
53. Free breakfast
54. Parent buy in is so important but difficult I would think for school to get around
55. More focus on wellbeing. Introducing dance and music classes
56. Offer financial aid to cover costs of summer camps, identify the families who are struggling, know when the children's birthdays are and buy their desired birthday presents. Most children can have their birthday wish granted but sadly not all, this could really make a difference in a childs life. Provide groceries during the Christmas holidays when Costs are high.
57. Provide education that is actually free. Help with the cost of extra curricular activities and trips.
58. Dont let the child feel left out or different. Inclusiom helps a child feel empowered.
59. Talk to them about what frustrates them
60. Plenty of help available through HSE / Tusla but parents too embarrassed to ask for the help.
61. I think everyone should be treated equal and that children are reminded to be kind. I know our school is very understanding and does not tolerate bullying but also explains to children how they could show more empathy to others.

62. Breakfast club
63. Help the kids understand the impact it has so they realise why they are feeling/acting a certain way and show them how they can get out of it.
64. Free trips and co-curricular trips and activities. Provide more NEPS Support to schools, provide more testing and associated supports, hot food in all schools
65. Rental schemes in schools
66. The stigma around it is a huge hurdle. There are probably families struggling that the school is unaware of. Maybe the schools need to be more vocal about the supports available and reduce the stigma around asking for help
67. Support worker needs to meet with parents and child its all so segregated
68. Focus should always be on the kids learning.....love the new idea of introducing drama classes
69. More fee pre and post school homework/breakfast clubs.
70. Engagement with HSL
71. More school funding to provide extra resources to support families living with social or financial challenges
72. Teacher/Sna contact with parents on a monthly basis
73. Inclusion should be paramount and proactive monitoring to ensure children are not left out and adequate supports put in place.
74. Opportunities to do things they can't do because of financial and social difficulties.
75. Encourage participation in extra Co. Curricular after school clubs.
76. Remove financial barriers to ensuring a full school experience
77. Support from HSCL
78. Encourage the child themselves to meet with the HSCL
79. Offer a confidential email or phone for parents to reach out
80. Buses for matches be paid for and a voucher provided for uniforms to help with the cost
81. Let the school know in advance
82. Spread payments through the year rather than all at one time of year.
83. One to one support
84. Don't know
85. Make them feel like they are not missing out
86. More practical subjects
87. Having resources available for children who couldn't afford a certain book etc (senior year)
88. I don't know
89. Not sure
90. Don't make trips unaccessable to all eg limited numbers first come first serve as it singles out the child who hasn't got the money to go and a short deadline even for only a small amount of money can put stress on a family as they might not have the 2 euro for non uniform day in the morning after a 8pm text
91. Educate on budgeting, how to lower other costs to provide for others, bring in real life scenarios

92. Whatever support is given should not make them any different or stand out from the rest of the children at school e.g. all of the children who attend our school from a direct provision centre arrive on a bus which per design arrives after school has started every day and leaves 10 minutes before school ends. These children have no chance of simply be seen the same as their classmates
93. Cost rate going to activities in school.
94. Continue supporting them
95. maybe change children's mindset that it isn't a taboo topic and look for help earlier
96. My child does not have social or financial challenges. However I was late in ordering a jumper for my 1st year child, she was facing starting without the proper jumper, one call to the school and I had a full uniform, which is being returned as we now have received our order of a new one. Everybody from the reception to the Home School Liason was excellent.
97. the school allowance should be put up to at least €250/300 per child in primary school
98. create opportunities for financial cover of costs
99. Organise more meeting groups with parents of children with intellectual disabilities in all schools in the area
100. To make things more inclusive and not single children out
101. Making parents aware of financial supports available to them
102. Remove book costs, uniform costs, free lunches
103. The pressure around uniforms addressed. My child speaks about children being singled out about uniforms, down to the colour of the sole of the shoe.
104. Free uniform and shoes
105. Encourage children to get involved in sports or other school clubs- or highlight free activities held in local libraries. Let children experience fun areas of school and learning
106. Pahmnt plans
107. Don't ask for financial help at the start of year. Offer pre school care and after school care to allow parents to work. Provide meals for kids. Provide free books for all children.
108. Providing snaps, maybe afterschool programs free of charge, hot meals are an excellent idea.
109. More proactive links with therapy supports in the community
110. More resource teachers to provide the extra attention those kids might need, so as not to take attention from the teacher and the whole class.
111. Don't give uniform money to parents as they spend it on other things. Give money to school and parents get them off the school.
112. Teachers communicating more.
113. Honestly the school system is so bad now, it's probably gone to far , the overreach by the Board of Education into private family issues both religious and spiritual has gone to far with SPHE that we will home school from next year.
114. Not sure

115. Inclusion
116. Praise and positivity
117. Speak to parents see what there struggles are
118. Don't know
119. We should be more well-informed for learning opportunities.
120. Not sure
121. Making sport and activities more affordable as children are now not getting the opportunity to take part in many activities due to cost of insurance and equipment familys just can afford this and children are missing out.
122. Ask the teachers to have a better understanding of the childs diagnosis if they have one so they can better understand and report home on
123. The Home School Liaison Officer is a good idea. I don't know what is offered, but for social issues, perhaps an afterschool group to support students who need it. Like a Youth Club.
124. Allow them the opportunity for more out of school activities
125. Encouragement and support
126. Health knowledge, dental and physical.
127. That teachers continue to be mindful of children's home life and any difficulties which may impact their schooling
128. Educate parents about the importance of school. And support lots of support and understanding
129. Again some focus on an educational grant/payment directly from school to said program or club for these pupils.
130. Educate the parents
131. Less judgement
132. Access to different services such as psychologist or OT
133. To feel included regardless of finances
134. Giving children in families struggling financially the opportunities to take part in after or beforw school clubs/activities that they wouldn't get the chance to outside of school would nurture a healthy school relationship and encourage attendance long into second level education
135. Make everyone feel like they are all the same, whether financial, social or learning difficulties