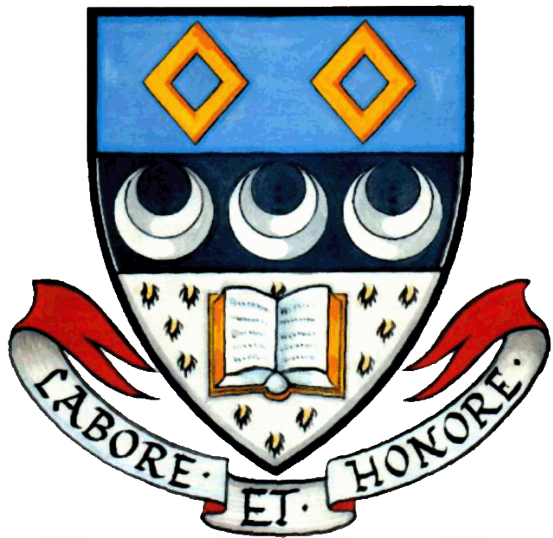


THE COST OF

THE SCHOOL DAY



Parents'
questionnaire
Analysis



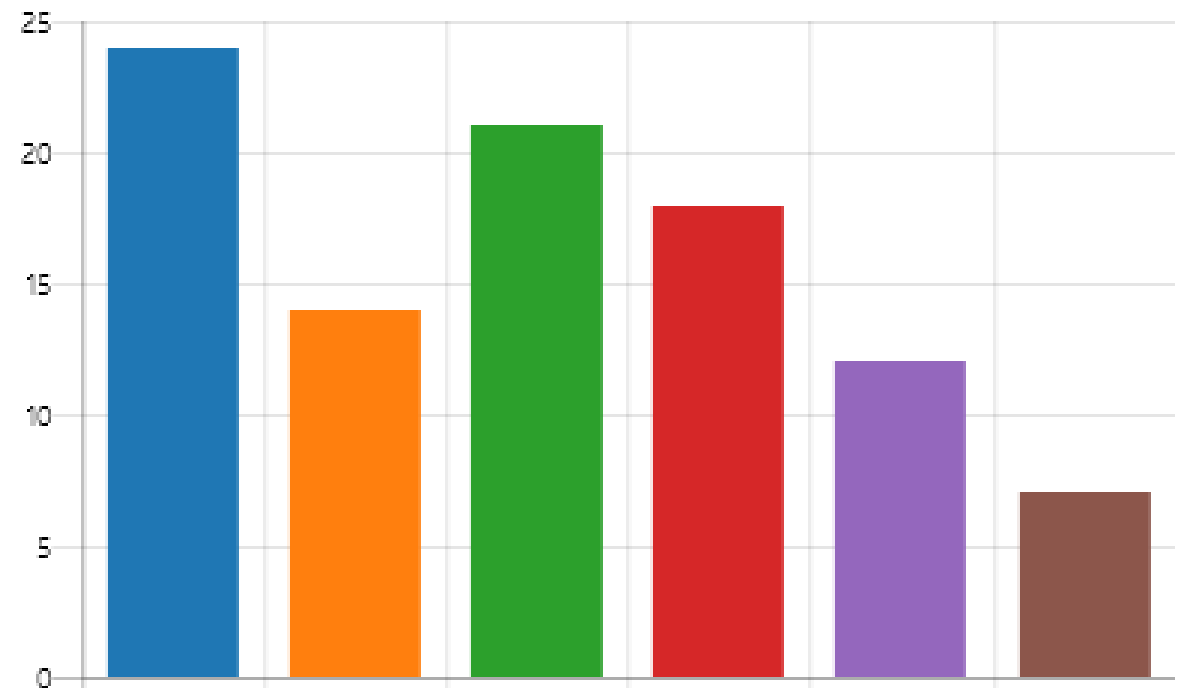
Question 1: Ages of children

1. What year/s are your child(ren) in? (optional) Please tick all boxes that apply.

[More Details](#)

- S1
- S2
- S3
- S4
- S5
- S6

24
14
21
18
12
7

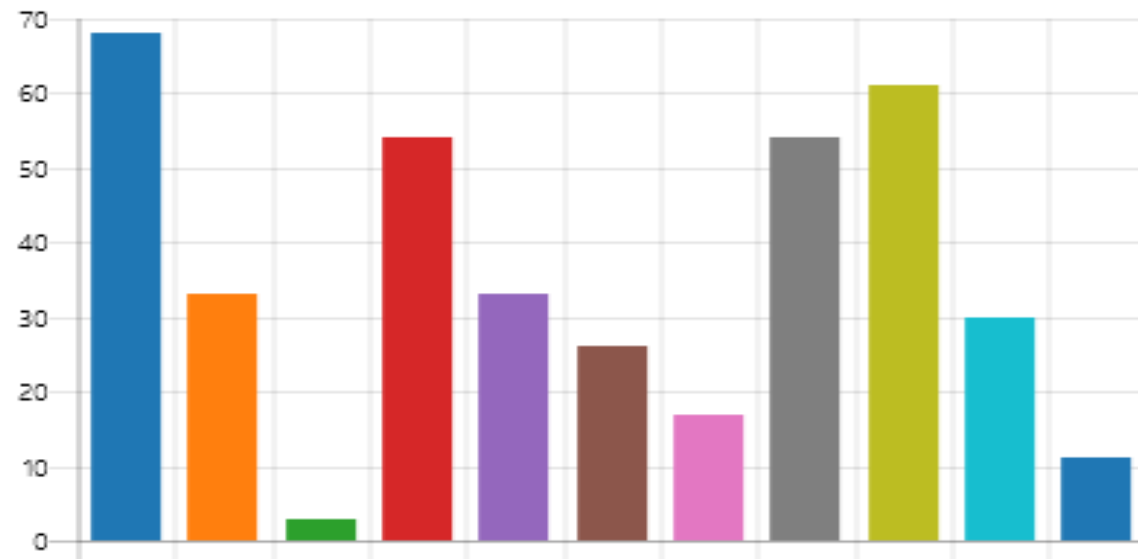


Question 2: Activities costs

2. In your school, which of the following items, events or activities cost you money? Please tick all boxes that apply.

[More Details](#)

Uniform	68
Travelling to school	33
Breakfast club	3
Learning (e.g. materials, subje...	54
Break time	33
Clubs and activities	26
Spending time with friends	17
Trips	54
Lunch	61
Fun events (e.g. discos, fundra...	30
Homework	11

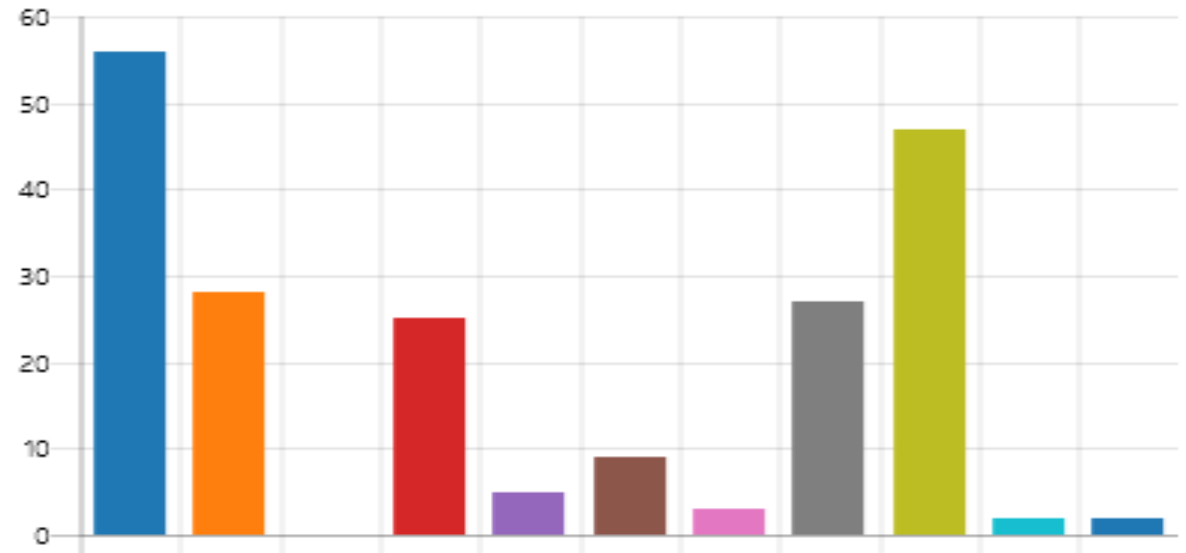


Question 3: Top Three costs

3. What are the TOP THREE costs for you across a school year? Please tick up to three of the boxes below.

[More Details](#)

Uniform	56
Travelling to school	28
Breakfast club	0
Learning (e.g. materials, subje...	25
Break time	5
Clubs and activities	9
Spending time with friends	3
Trips	27
Lunch	47
Fun events (e.g. discos, fundra...	2
Homework	2



Question 4: Opinion on school expectations

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Tick one box for each statement.

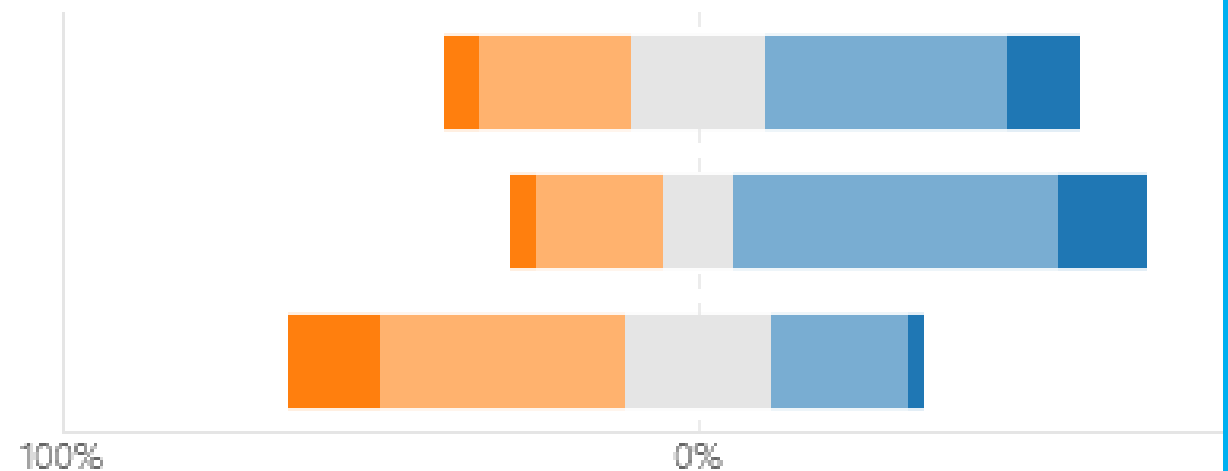
[More Details](#)

Strongly agree Agree Not sure Disagree Strongly disagree

'The school asks for too much money over a school year.'

'It's difficult to afford all of the things my child needs for school.'

'There's always lots of notice given if the school is asking us for money.'



Question 5: Awareness of available support

5. Do you know whether there is help available at school to help pay for any of the items, events or activities below? Please tick one box for each row.

[More Details](#)

Yes No Don't know

Uniform

Lunches and eating at school

Materials for learning in class and at home

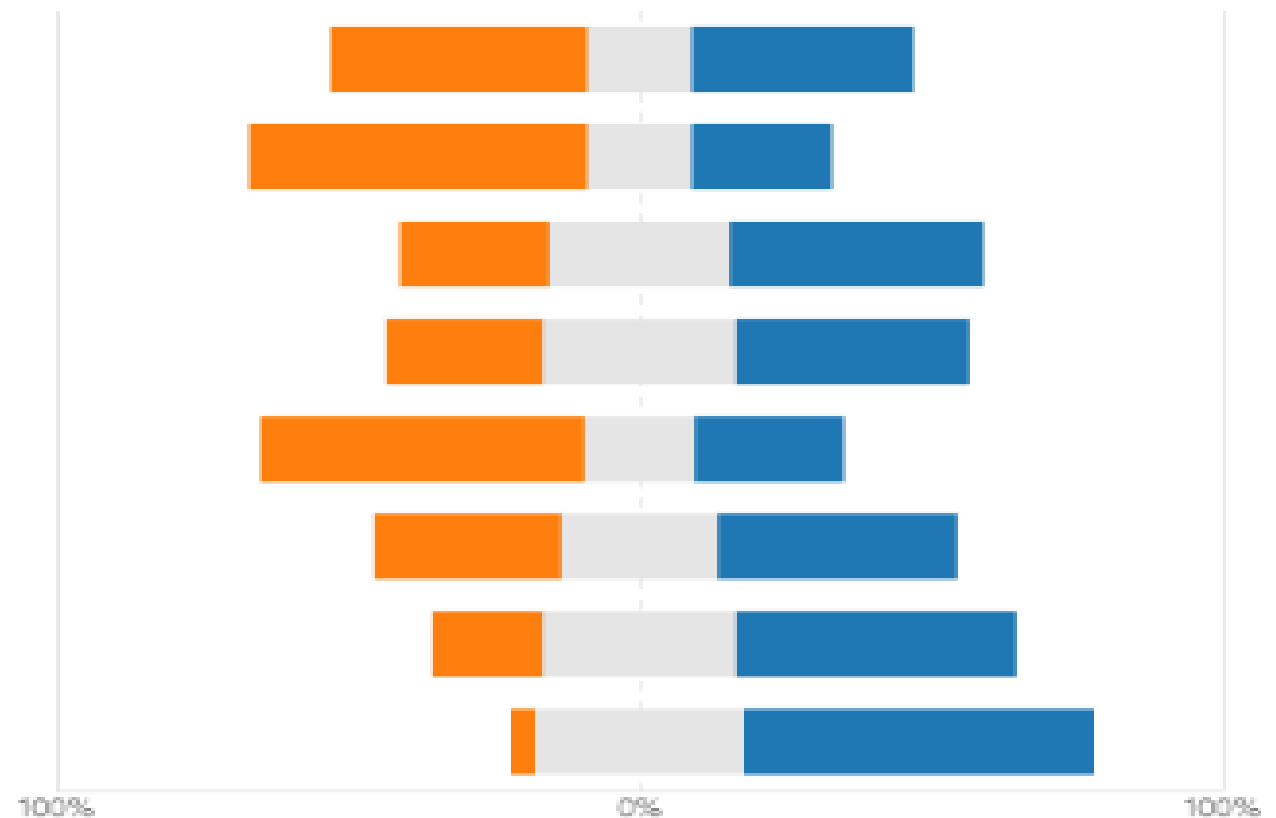
Subject costs

Trips

Travel

Clubs and activities

Fun events



Question 6: Awareness of help available

don't know but havnt asked as I feel I don't need this help at present

None

Help with trip costs

Not sure

Letters arrive with trips to say you can apply for financial help. Would be good to clarify if just if you receive benefits or if low income families what is cut off to apply or other criteria.

Free school lunches I think.
Help with trips
If eligible, bus pass

Help with cost of school meals
“ “ “ Trips/outdoor activities

Lunches, second hand uniforms

Access to funds if unable to pay for trips/ materials.
uniform bank
free meals if eligible
have reduced regular trips so less and more affordable

Subsidies for
Meals / other social funds for hardship needs

Question 6: Awareness of help available

I know there is a fund for those who feel they are unable to pay for things

Free school lunches, costs towards costs for subjects e.g HFT

Have never contacted the school for financial help as yet but assume that they would help in any area or point me in the right direction if it is ever needed.

uniform bank, pupil help fund form for trips,

Aware financial assistance provided if required for lunches and school trips

The wording of this question is unclear as I don't know if the question is relating to financial help or help for the pupils? But, afterschool tuition/homework classes and sports clubs are good for pupils who need additional help and/or enjoy sports..

Aware that correspondence usually mentions that parents/carers who face difficulty with costs can contact the school.

I think there is a fund you can apply for

Support with costs for trips and lunches

Question 6: Awareness of help available

Homework diary provided. Uniform, meals grants. Help with other items in extreme circumstances

Can apply to the school for help - I'd just rather do without other things than ask for subsidies

Aware of ability to let school know if not able to afford trip etc
Uniform swap
Help from education for travel, lunch and school uniform

Possible costs for trips

I would expect those on FSM to also be told about/get uniform grant; and because the school is aware of these youngsters would have all other costs covered also. I would also expect the school to be aware of those pupils who live in households just above the FSM threshold (i.e. those who get EMA further up the school) and support them.

Honestly don't know what help is provided

None that we know about

Travel

Lunches and uniform. Subsidies for trips

Don't know

Question 6: Awareness of help available

Helps parents who are on low income with costs of trips, meals and uniform.
Advice where to get help in the city of Edinburgh.

Help for meals/trips etc if on benefits (I don't qualify)

UNIFORM, SCHOOL LUNCHES AND TRIPS

I've not needed to ask so I don't know.

Free school meals and bus pass for those on benefits

School trips, uniforms, travel

Help for those receiving tax credits

We are not entitled to any help as both my husband and myself work and are not claiming benefits.

can send a form into head teacher in confidence but often then hear nothing back and deadline approach and then have to choose to do or not to do need better communication around support

If my child comes home with a letter which asks for money, there's always a form attached to it which allows us to explain if we're unable to pay for the activity and seek financial support.

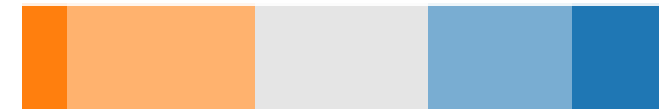
Question 7: Confidence in support

7. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Tick one box for each statement.

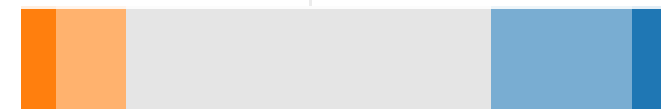
[More Details](#)

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Not sure ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

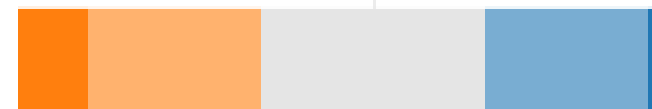
'If I was struggling to pay for something at school I would feel comfortable telling staff about that.'



'I think there is enough support for families finding it difficult to afford school costs.'



'I know from the school how I would go about applying for free school meals and clothing grants'



Question 8: Suggestions

Supply a list of expected costs for each school year to allow budgeting. Look at ways to reduce costs.

Not keeping having so many "dress down" days for charity - puts pressure on families to bring money in or their child will appear different to others. Hard if you have more than one child at school. Ridiculous the amount of money you have to pay for some classes - in 1st or 2nd year i remember having to pay for tech and my child never made anything!!

More frequent and clear announcements

Inform parents at start school year of potential costs if necessary v optional things.

An info pack to new S1 and their carers in p7 details all help available if on low income? a pack to all new S1 funded by parent council containing eg stationary/ pens, calculator, one pre loved school tshirt eg to allow uniformity (rather than making families feel different if in need, everyone is offered same).

Also allows ownership by parents / pip and may encourage parents to meet more and arrange social events as a year group to help fund the packs.

Encourage more children to stay in school lunches and all use a card so it's not clear who has free school meals and less peer pressure to go to shops - some schools keep children in until senior school.

Question 8: Suggestions

Good opportunity to review uniform policy eg a blazer which can be recycled may be cheaper than 3 jumpers. Also opportunity to review cost of branding? source cheaper, normalise and encourage uniform bank as eco friendly not just for those "in need"

Breakfast club option if needed could maybe be sourced by local business grants or supermarket grants.

For costs eg active schools or paying materials eg cookery operate a policy of everyone is in and pays contribution if can or pay it forwards .

Some children may self select not to do something thinking families can't afford it and so communication from school to parents direct about trips/ events/ costs.

Parents like us , who are able, want to be able to directly contribute financially to projects to help learning and technology. It is so frustrating eg to see the current website looking and being so out of date and yet we'd happy contribute to a web developer. We would happily contribute to any other needs if we know what we are and allowed to do so.

I think that CCHS is very open and approachable so will be doing all it can to help whenever it can. Maybe making everyone aware that help is available, mention it when parents are in for the information evenings - this may already happen but I've just forgotten.

Question 8: suggestions

sign post parents to places where they can get help, support, advice.
my issue is that the help I'm aware of isn't available for my circumstances

Not require school crest on poloshirt and hoodie would give more cheaper options. Whilst not financially disadvantaged kids grow and constantly having to buy bigger sizes of logoed clothing means can not be easily reused. Primary school had a donate old uniforms, not sure if cchs does.

A uniform thrift shop (if it exists already, I am unaware)

Although the routine sums asked for aren't high, if more than one child at school(s) it can be difficult.

The PIP uniform bank is great.

Keep making the information available and emphasise the willingness of staff to talk this through. Anything that destigmatises this.

Don't charge for concerts or other events. Fundraise in other ways

Question 8: Suggestions

Travelling

Stop the 'must not have non-black stitching/soles on shoes' rule. Don't request school emblem on uniform from a single supplier.

Plenty of notice regarding trips would be useful

Campaign for all school children to have free travel on buses when going to and from school. Would help traffic and environment too.

Think it's difficult to find black footwear at affordable prices that children will wear!
Agree with school uniform but having school jumpers plain black or plain white polo shirts would be cheaper than sweatshirts/hoodies with school badge.

Question 8: Suggestions

Make help available for families not on benefits

Information sheets

The provision for school lunches should be increased, as the allowance at the moment doesn't allow for a healthy, nutritious choice

Payment plans / discounts for those in need

Reduce cost of school trips? Try and get kids to fundraise for these? E.g. Trip to Xmas markets - £675 for a weekend.

Also help families where both parents work and not only families who claim benefits. Just because we work does not mean we earn lots of money.

Don't have logo items have a school bank available daily with PE kit and all school sports as well as normal uniform available jackets shoes have stationery available free period products.

Question 9: Anything else?

There is hidden poverty in the area which needs to be supported and for people to be encouraged to ask for help more.

Really pleased that the 1 in 5 group has started and pupils and Mrs Mulvey are taking this forward. Some of the above ideas are already in place like uniform bank . Understand communication like letters/ website is a work in progress and being improved.

We really want to contribute to subscribed projects - can we not set up an external fund that we manage but that we use to give to the school ?

I know that there is help available but if your earnings are classed as too high which is the category I fall into then you don't get any help, which I feel I sometimes struggle to meet all the demands of everything so my children miss out on something as can't afford it which is a shame!

I was surprised at having to pay towards the foods used in hft and hospitality

I'm concerned about the cost of tutors!!! My children are needing help with some subjects and because we can't afford a tutor it's not an option for us. However my kids, despite the possibility of accessing supported study, feel that they can't do well because we can't afford tutors! I know that this is a complex area (and that tutors are not necessarily the key to good results) but it makes me sad when I see other families accessing tutors and knowing that we can't.

Question 9: Anything else?

The cost for trips and school uniforms are very responsible in our school

It should be able to run courses without asking parents for money to buy equipment to allow the kids to take the subject

SHOULD OFFER FREE FRUIT FOR BREAKS

I've not found them too bad.

Some of the trips are pretty expensive and I know we can afford them. I wonder how it would be possible to have spaces for one or two others who normally couldn't afford it, to be able to go....

all schools are same not any more at this school than any other

Question 9: Anything else?

Although we are within the catchment for the school, we do have to pay ourselves for bus travel - living 2.8 miles from the school

I don't think they are unreasonable.

It is difficult for the school as it's nice to be able to offer trips etc but the reality is even a well priced trip in terms of 'value' is pretty expensive. We are both working and by no means in poverty but the foreign trips are still a lot of money. Especially when you have more than one child. It's hard for the school as there are not lots of these types of trips and it's a wonderful opportunity to be able to offer this type of thing to kids. But the reality is if we are looking at and planning how we will pay for it then there must be so many children who won't even take the form home because they know there is just no way their parents could afford it. I'm not sure what the solution is, possibly a larger fund and a more discreet way of enabling children to approach a teacher about costs etc.

The parents in partnership group are addressing this with the school and many positive steps are happening eg uniform bank.

We are fortunate that we can afford things but I truly feel for low income families

Traveling to and from school- those who are 16-18 but are still attending should get reduced bus fares

No. I would be more inclined to be involved and provide funds if encouraged.

Next Steps...

