

School Funding Catholic Primary Schools Management Association



November 2012

amárach 
research

Background & Objectives

- **Research was carried out on behalf of the Catholic Primary School Management Association by Amárach Research to investigate the financial impact that a discontinuation of the minor works grants would have on schools.**
- **A dual methodology was employed with schools completing the survey online or via a postal methodology.**
- **In order to ensure that all schools had the opportunity to participate and then to engage, the fieldwork dates were 16th October-November 2012.**
- **540 interviews in total were achieved.**

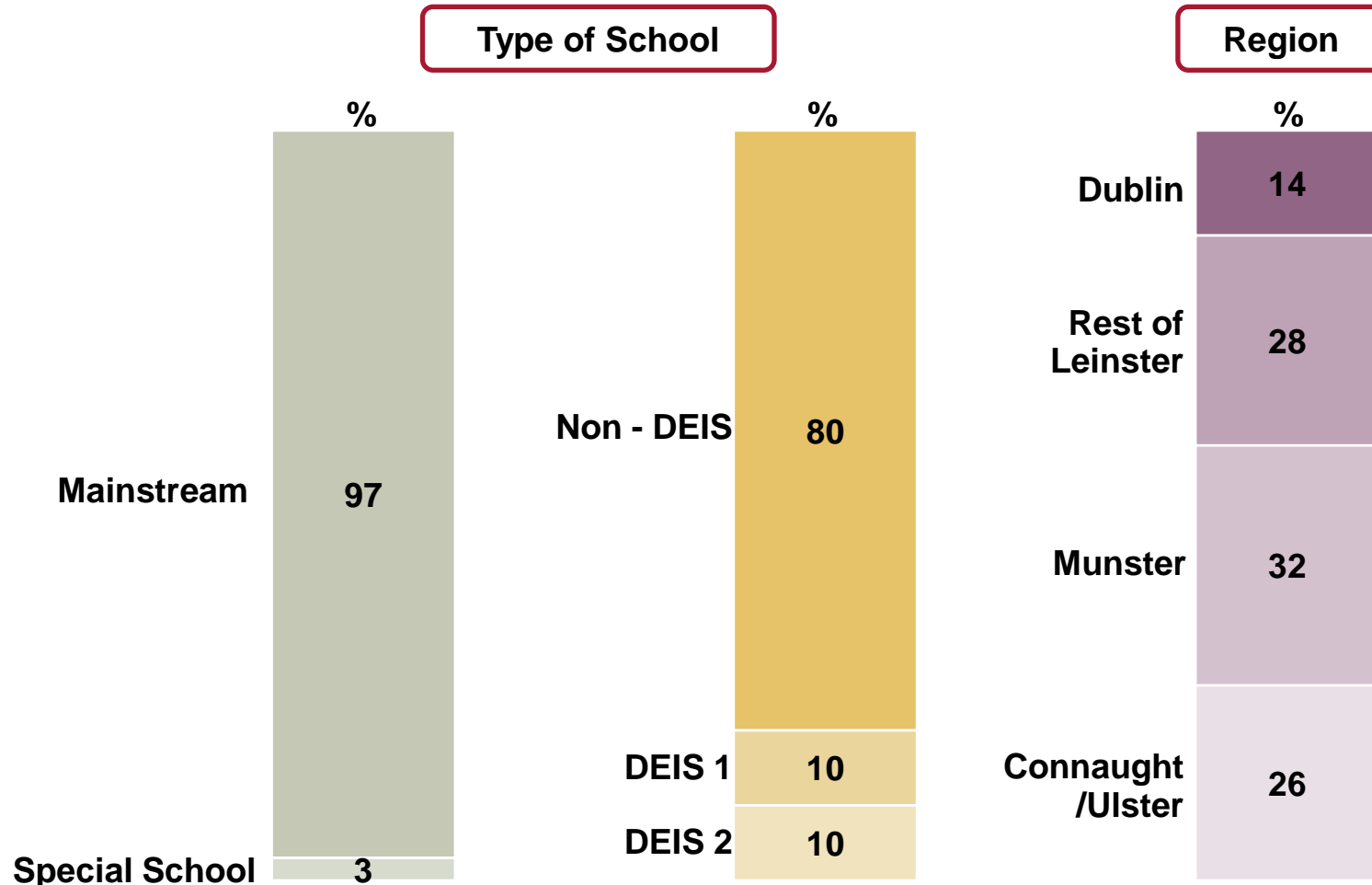


Sample Size

- **The Catholic Primary School Management Association (CPSMA) has 2,900 primary school members. Of these, 540 took part in the research yielding a response rate of 18.6%.**
- **With the confidence interval set at 95%, there is a margin of error of just 3.8%. This indicates that the sample size is statistically robust for an attitudinal survey and that the responses given can confidently be extrapolated to be reflective of CPSMA members.**
- **A broad regional spread of responses were also captured from schools with varying sizes, as reflected in the Profile of Sample slides.**
- **Surveys were completed by Primary School principals to ensure all data collected were truly reflective of each school.**

Profile of Sample

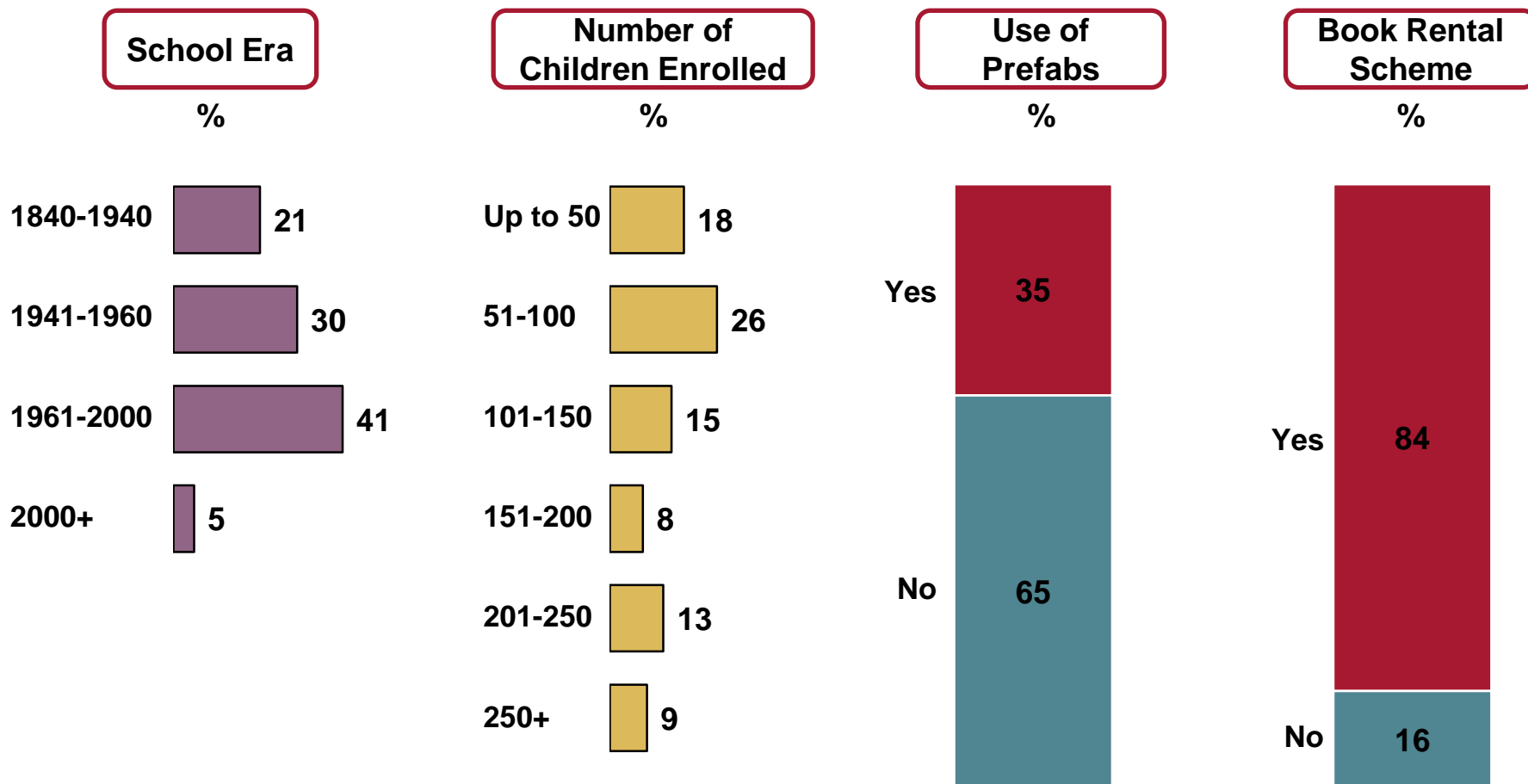
(Base: All Schools - 540)



The majority of schools surveyed were Non - DEIS (80%) and mainstream (97%) from a variety of regions around the country.

Overview of Schools

(Base: All Schools - 540)



4-in-10 schools surveyed were built between the 60's and 2000, with only 1-in-20 being built this century. Over 1-in-3 use prefabs (35%) and 5-in-6 have a book rental scheme in place (84%)

(Q.5/6/7/23)

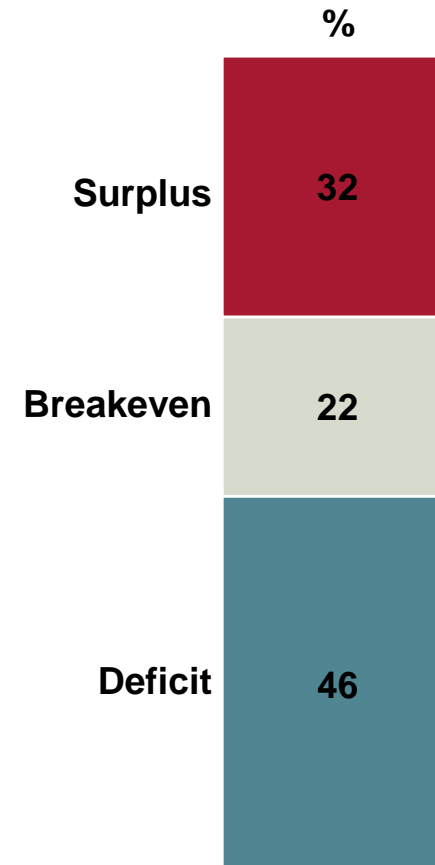
Schools Finances

Financial Reporting

(Base: All Schools - 540)

Accounts Period

	Start %	End %
January	9	1
February	0	0
March	0	*
April	0	*
May	0	1
June	1	7
July	4	1
August	4	74
September	78	5
October	1	1
November	1	1
December	1	9

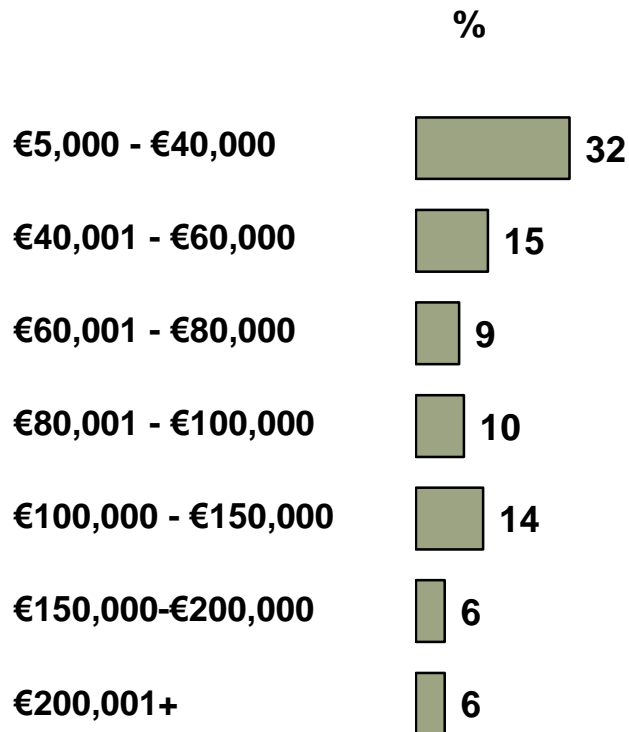


Not surprisingly, the majority of financial years coincide with the school year, i.e. Sep-Aug. Nearly half (46%) of schools surveyed have experienced a deficit for their financial year.

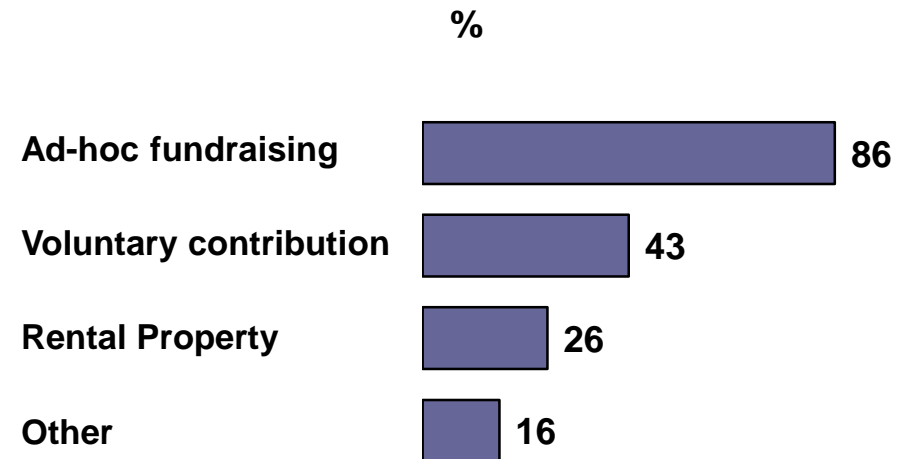
Breakdown of Income

(Base: All Schools - 540)

Income from Department of Education & Skills



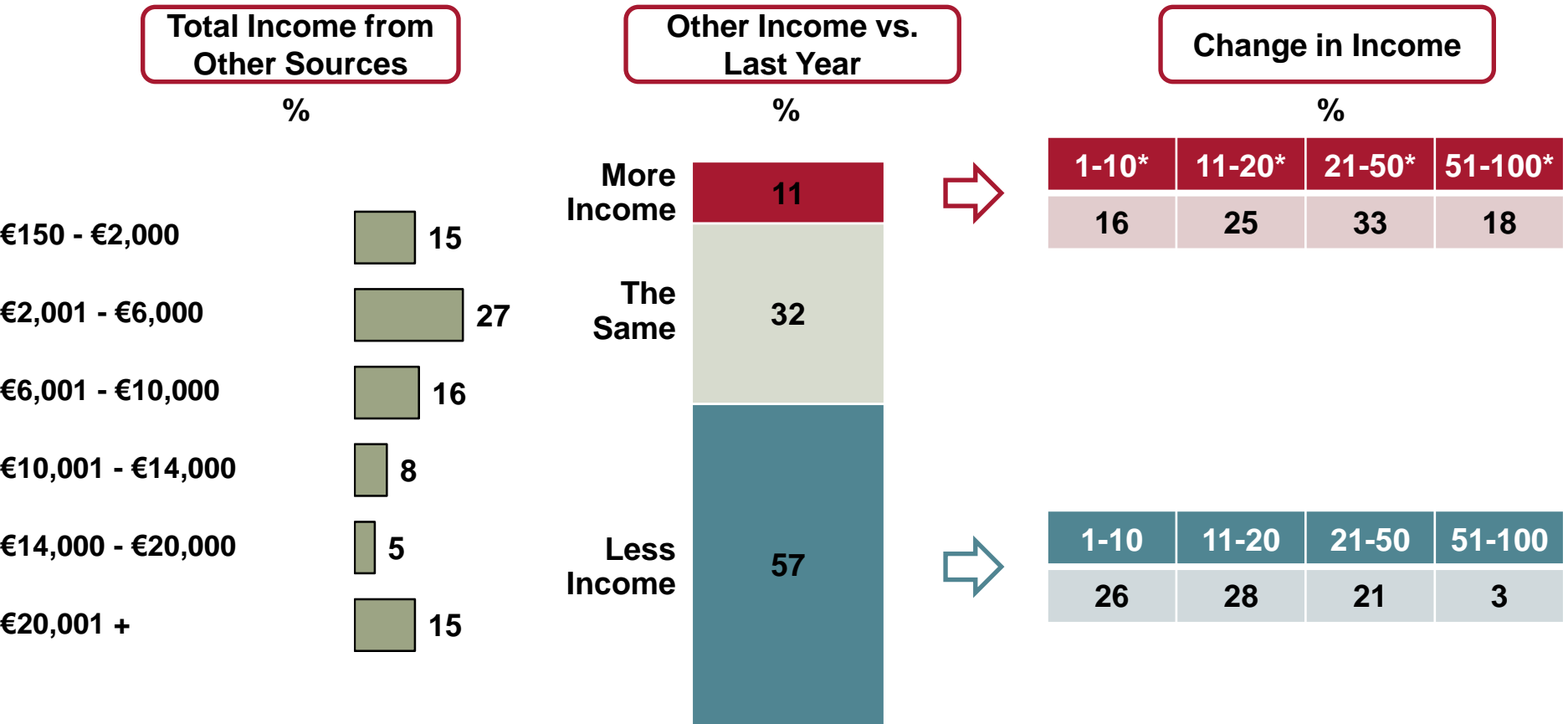
Other Income Sources



1-in-3 schools receive between €5,000-€40,000 per annum from the department of education. 86% of schools also rely on ad-hoc fundraising while 4-in-10 (43%) ask parents to make an annual voluntary contribution.

Additional Income

(Base: All Schools - 540)



From these other financial sources, approximately 6-in-10 (58%) receive less than €10,000. For 57% of schools this is a decrease on the previous year.

* Caution small base size



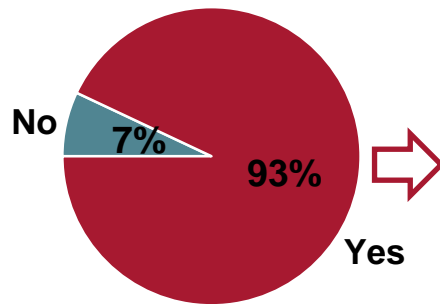
Minor Works Scheme

Receipt of Minor Works Grant

(Base: All Schools - 540)

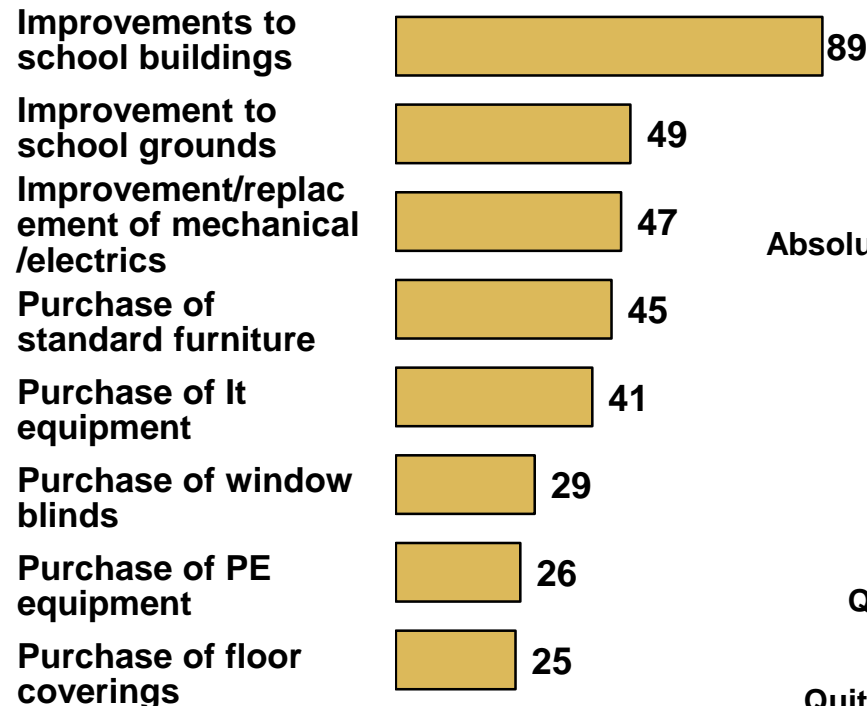
Minor Works Grant Received Last Year

%



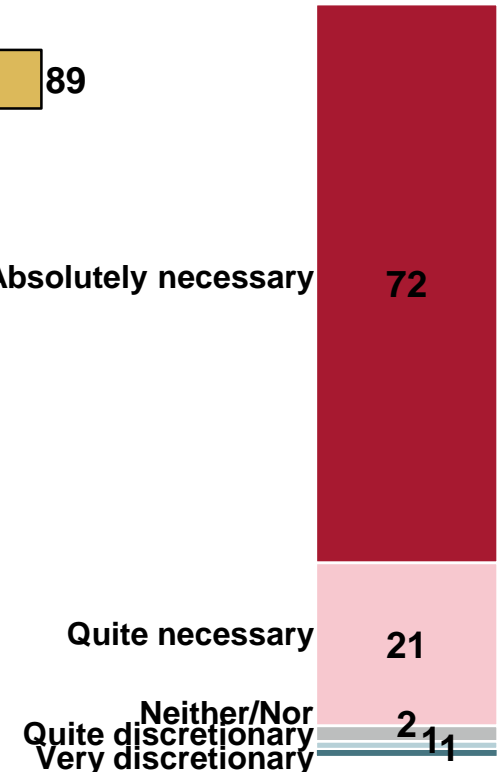
Use of Minor Works Grant

%



Necessity of Works

%



The majority (93%) of schools received a minor works grant last year and 89% of these utilised these funds for improvements to school buildings, e.g. replacement of windows, re-painting and re-decorating. 7-in-10 report that these funds were absolutely essential.

(Q.16a/b/18)

Details of Minor Works Grant

(Base: All Schools who Receive a Minor Works Grant - 502)



For schools who received a minor works grant, 43% said it ranged between €5,001-€8,000. The majority of these (85%) supported local contractors for this work and two-thirds of projects were completed within 4 weeks.

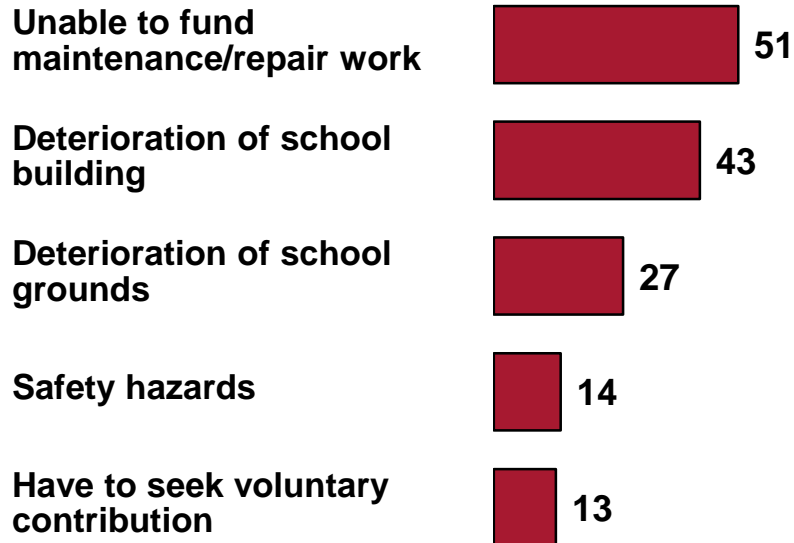
(Q.17/19/20/21)

Impact of Discontinuation of Minor Works Grant

(Base: All Schools who Receive a Minor Works Grant - 502)

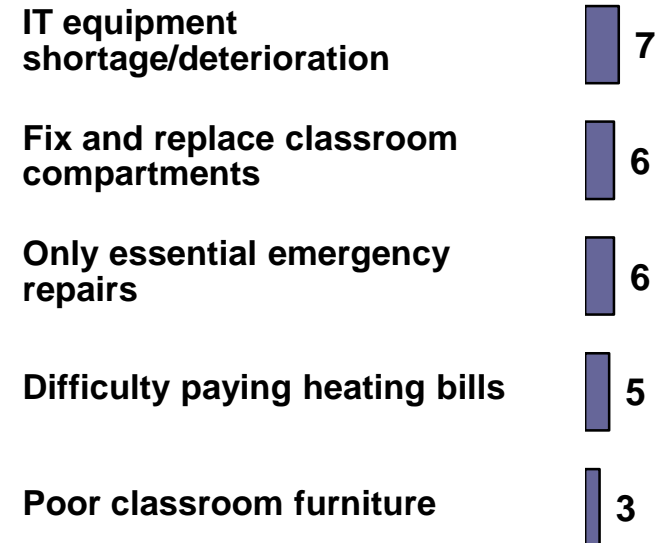
Primary Impact

%



Secondary Impact

%



Half of schools would be unable to fund maintenance/repair work if the minor works grant was discontinued. 4-in-10 said it would lead to the deterioration of buildings and 1-in-4 feel it would lead to a deterioration of school grounds. 1-in-8 would have to seek voluntary contributions from parents in the future.

Overview of Findings



Overview of Findings

- **Although schools currently receive funding from the Department of Education, over 8-in-10 (86%) also run ad-hoc fund raising pieces to raise additional funds. Not surprisingly over half of those looking for funds from other sources have seen a decrease in the amounts raised versus previous years.**
- **9-in-10 schools received a minor works grant last year and for most schools these funds were used to improve school buildings, as well the school grounds and the improvement of mechanical/electrical equipment.**
- **7-in-10 felt this expenditure was absolutely essential. The majority of projects were contracted to a local contractor and took up to 4 weeks to complete.**
- **The removal of the minor works grant would clearly have negatives effects on schools, over half reported that they would be unable to fund repair/maintenance work and many schools would also see a deterioration of school buildings and grounds.**

amárach 
research