

National Parents Council (Primary) Submission to the Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



November 2016

Introduction

The National Parents Council Primary welcomes the opportunity to submit its views to the Joint Committee on Education and Social protection on the Role of Special Needs Assistants. National Parents Council Primary (NPC) is the representative organisation for parents of children in primary or early education. NPC was established as a charitable organisation in 1985, under the programme for Government, as the representative organisation for parents of children attending primary school. It received statutory recognition in the Education Act 1998.

NPC Vision

NPC want to see an Ireland where **every** child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

NPC Mission

NPC 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 primary education sector, to achieve true partnership and deliver better outcomes for all children.

NPC's Key Activities are:

- Representing the parents' voice in primary education
- Advocacy
- Building participation
- Service delivery

NPC Service Delivery

NPC services are aimed at empowering 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 gives 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 primary education. The site also allows parents an opportunity to give NPC their views regarding primary education issues.

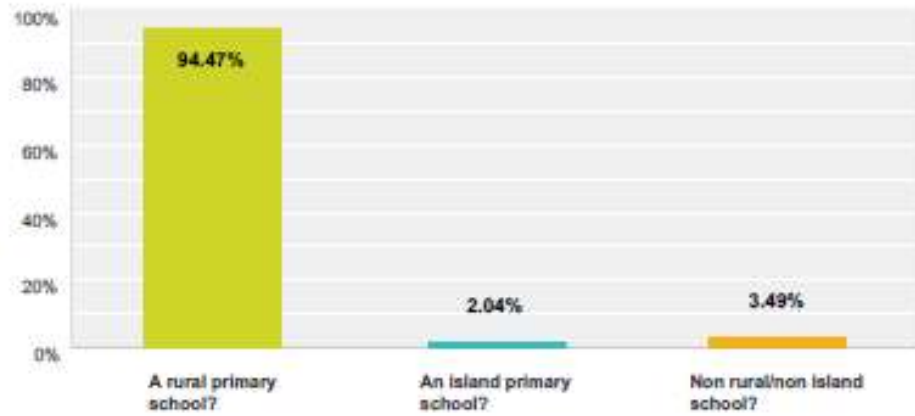
Rural and Island Schools

National Parents Council Primary welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on 'Location, staffing and pupil ratios in rural and island schools including facilities provided and transport thereto'.

In preparation for this submission and to ensure the parents voice was effectively represented, the National Parents Council Primary (NPC) conducted a survey of parents whose children attend rural or island schools. The survey was open to parents between the dates of the 18th to the 24th of November 2016 and aimed to address the areas as outlined by the Committee in its' correspondence to NPC dated the 25th October 2016. NPC received 832 individual responses to the survey the results of which form the basis of this report.

Q1 Does your child attend

Answered: 832 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
A rural primary school?	94.47%	786
An island primary school?	2.04%	17
Non rural/non island school?	3.49%	29
Total		832

Question 2 - Where is your child's primary school located?

AnsweredQuestion	619
SkippedQuestion	213

County	Responses	Including these areas
Carlow	36	Ballinkillen x 5, Ballon x 8, Bennekerry, Glynn, St. Mullins x 3, Newtown Dunlecky, Tinryland x 7
Cavan	27	Butlersbridge, Carrigabruise Virginia, Cross Mullagh, Crosskeys, Crossreagh, Knocktemple Virginia x 6, Maghera, Milltown Belturbet, Munterconnaght, Virginia x 3
Clare	19	Ballyea Ennis, Clarecastle, Crusheen x 3, Doolin, Ennistymon, Feakle, Kilnamona, Moy, Tuamgraney x 6
Cork	63	Aghabullogue, Ballineen x 4, Ballinhassaig x 3, Ballycotton x 3, Ballycraheen, Ballyeada x 2, Berrings x 10, Burnfort, Castlelyons, Castletownroche, Clogagh, Coppeen Enniskean, Darrara, Derrinacaheragh Dunmanway, Dunmanway x 2, Farran, Knnockraha, Laragh Bandon x 2, Newcestown, Nohoval, Saleen Midleton, Vicarstown Matehy, Walterstown Cobh, Newtownshandrum x 3, Ringaskiddy x 3, Shanagarry x 3
Donegal	19	Drumfires Clonmany, Gartan, Glendowan, Keadue Burtonport x 4, Kerrykeel, Portlean Kilmacrennan, Moville, The Rosses
Dublin	34	Ballyboughal x 5, Dublin Mountains, Glencullen x 25, Rivermeade, St. Margarets
Galway	29	Ardrahan, Athenry, Ballyconneely x 3, Carnaun Athenry, Carraroe, Connemara x 4 Coolarne, Killannin, Kiltullagh, Leitrim Loughrea x 2, Moycullen x 6, Recess, Renvyle
Kerry	24	Caherleaheen Tralee, Causeway, Cloghane, Raheen Headford Killarney x 2, Scartaglen Killarney, Waterville, Valentia Island x 13
Kildare	55	Ballymore Eustace, Celbridge, Crookstown ballitore, Lackagh Monasterevin x 2, Rathangan, The Curragh, Two Mile House Naas x 41
Kilkenny	41	Kilcacow x 34, Mullinavat, Stoneyford x 2
Laois	23	Ballyadams x 2, Ballyroan x 4, Camross, Castletown, Clough Ballacalla, Durrow, Emo, Killenard x 7
Leitrim	14	Carrick on Shannon x 2, Clooney, Dromahair x 2, Killenummery x 4
Limerick	12	Anglesboro, Ashford, Laught Lisnagry, Monagea
Longford	6	Ballinamuck x 2, Newtowncashel x 2
Louth	14	Carlingford, Stabannon x 3, Tenure, Tullyallen
Mayo	19	Charlestown x 3, Crossmolina, Facefield Claremorris x 2, Islandeady x 2, Louisburgh, Straide Foxford x 3, Westport
Meath	43	Bohermeen x 2, Enfield, Kentstown x 23, Mulhussey Kilcock x 2, Skryne x 3
Monaghan	2	Drumacrutin, Glaslough
Offaly	9	Ballybryan, Ferbane, Gortnamona Blueball Tullamore, Rhode, Tullamore, Walsh Island
Roscommon	1	Ballinlough
Sligo	27	Ballisodare x 2, Ballyweelin x 2, Castlebaldwin x 2, Collooney, Corbally, Maugherow x 7, Moylough x 2, Ballinfull Maugherow x 3
Tipperary	16	Annacarty, Ballyneale, Boherlahan Cashel, Newtown Upper Faugheen, Roscrea, Newlann x 2
Waterford	4	Clashmore, Newtown Kilmacthomas
Westmeath	18	Ballinagore, Ballymore Mullingar, Castletown Geoghegan x 2, Emper Ballynacargy x 5
Wexford	41	Ballycullane, Boolavogue, Bree, Craanford Gorey, Crossabeg, Curracloe, Cushinstown x 6, Glenbrien Enniscorthy, Glynn x 2, Gorey, Gusserane x 2, Marshalstown, mayglass, Monaseed Gorey, New Ross,

Raheen Adamstown x 2, Rathgarogue x 2, Screen x 3

Wicklow

9 Avoca, Ballyconnell, Dunlavin x 2, Redcross, Tinsley, Tynock Kiltegan

Q3. How many kms (approximately) from the school do you live?	
Distance (KM)	Number of responses
0.0-4.9	403
5.0-9.9	168
10.0-14.9	35
15.0-19.9	12
20.0-24.9	2
25.0-29.9	0
30.0-34.9	3
35.0	1

Q4. How many pupils attend your child's primary school?	
Number of Pupils	Number of Responses
1-10	8
11-20	3
21-30	32
31-40	16
41-50	19
51-60	31
61-70	19
71-80	14
81-90	39
91-100	66
101-110	15
111-120	29
121-130	25
131-140	17
141-150	19
151-160	11
161-170	16
171-180	59
181-190	9
191-200	31
201-210	10
211-220	19
221-230	12
231-240	14
241-250	20
251-260	12
261-270	4
271-280	5
281-290	4
291-300	19
301-350	3
351-400	8
401-450	4
451-500	4

501-974	3
---------	---

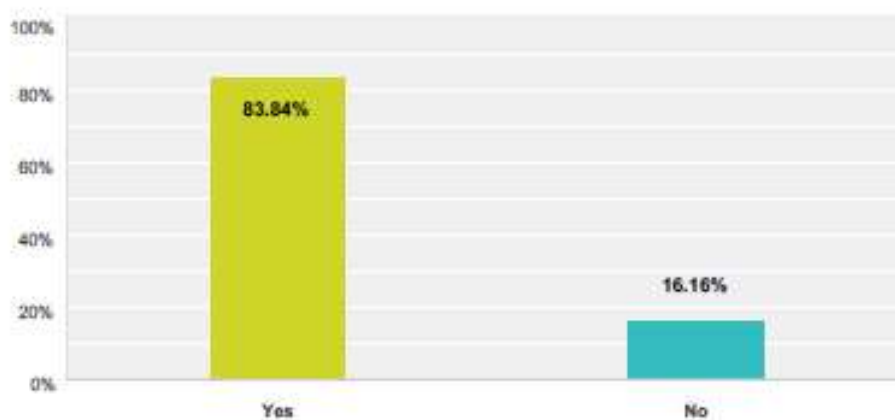
Q5. How many teachers work in your child's primary school?	
Number of teachers	Number of responses
1	1
2	53
2.5	1
3	59
3.5	2
4	86
4.5	1
5	50
6	62
7	26
8	69
9	26
10	61
11	12
12	61
13	3
14	9
15	14
16	2
17	1
18	2
20	12
24	1
25	1
26	1
30	3

Q6. How many children are in your child's class?	
Number of pupils in class	Number of responses
1	2
2	9
3	8
4	19
5	15
6	10
7	11
8	15
9	12
10	6
11	11
12	15
13	19
14	9
15	13
16	10
17	8
18	22
19	11
20	36
21	8
22	27
23	13
24	28
25	27
26	28
27	20
28	47
29	22
30	51
31	18
32	22
33	15
34	9
35	13
36	2
37	1
38	3
45	1

Q7. How many classrooms are in the primary school? please enter a number	
Number of classrooms	Number of responses
2	59
3	67
4	112
5	52
6	47
7	28
8	122
9	37
10	51
11	10
12	13
14	2
15	3
16	8
18	4
20	2
24	1
30	1

Q8 Does your child's school have good classroom facilities?

Answered: 619 Skipped: 213



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	83.84% 519
No	16.16% 100
Total	619

Further comments on classroom facilities

- 1 They have a white board. No computers.
- 2 The building is old and has no central heating. But a new building is planned.
Was shocked to learn when my child joined this year that not all rooms had whiteboards, projectors etc, IT very basic or outdated. School is divided into junior and senior, housed in 2 seperate
- 3 buildings. The senior building is especially rundown. Buildings are not adjacent to each other.
- 4 One of my childrens classroom is the PE hall
- 5 In a mixed class 1st snd second together
The main school building is a very old prefab that is falling apart. Its on its last legs! The
- 6 infants(kindergarten) building is sturdy and very nice.
- 7 Two small for 2 classes -30 children
- 8 In a split class with year above
- 9 One class room currently in PR hall
- 10 One classroom too small
- 11 No IT equipment which should be a subject just like English, maths and Irish
The facilities such as interactive whiteboards, arts and craft supplies and reading books have all
- 12 been provided by the combined efforts of the teachers and parents
The facilities in the classrooms such as whiteboards, reading books, arts and crafts supplies are
- 13 provided by the combined efforts of the teachers and parents
The classroom facilities such as interactive whiteboards, reading books, arts and craft supplies,
- 14 games in our school have all been provided by the combined efforts of the teachers and the parents
- 15 But only because parents work so hard to get everything for school
- 16 Most are reasonable but the 9th class room is the hall converted to a class room
The present school opened on 1st September 2005. It is a modern school, containing four
- 17 classrooms, two resource rooms, GP Hall, office and staff room.
- 18 A new school is scheduled to be built beginning next year
- 19 My child is in a new classroom with excellent facilities, older classrooms not so much.

20 Yes but it is awaiting a further classroom. The pe hall is a classroom
 21 further investment is needed in school hall and upgrade of classroom facilities
 22 Some classes have good facilities others don't it would be nice for all classes to have toilets in
 23 Not enough computers or art equipment
 24 The General purpose room has to be used as a classroom and it has had to be divided to
 accommodate a classroom and the Learning support room.
 25 General purpose room is divided into two rooms to accommodate a classroom and the learning
 support teacher.
 26 The school is on the dept ed building list 2019
 The school should not be in use, the damp is so unhealthy, my child has asthma - don't get me
 started.
 27 New school due to open in next few weeks.
 At present my child is in a prefab - freezing in winter and too warm in the summer. she has to wear
 her jacket in the classroom at present. This will hopefully be a distant memory in a few weeks when
 28 they move into the new school building.
 29 Size of class room could be bit bigger
 The sink is too high for the little ones to wash their hands. The room could be extended as it is quite
 30 small for 3 classes.
 School is over 30 years old (new part) with majority of it over 40yrs old. Damp and cold walls black
 with mold toilets shocking!!!
 31 All the children also get a chance to use everything i.e computers because the classrooms are not
 overcrowded.
 32 BRAND NEW SCHOOL BUILT IN 2012 AND IT HAS REACHED OVERCAPACITY ALREADY
 33 Relatively New school
 34 Recently completed the xtension with new resource rooms.
 35 New school has just been built
 36 Nice hall for PE
 37 Classrooms appear sufficiently large, and well equipped.
 38 they could be better but they are not bad
 Through a huge fund-raising effort on behalf of the parents and community, we have completed a
 school extension so that each year may have a class to themselves. However without the constant
 40 effect of the parents and community each year, there would be a huge shortfall for facilities.
 41 Its warm and spacious with toilets in the classroom
 Rooms are small and we are waiting on an extension to be built to increase no of classrooms and
 42 also to get new toilets in the school
 43 Rooms are small and cramped
 44 Room is a little cramped but otherwise ok.
 Whiteboard
 45 Plenty of activities/toys
 46 Carpet, whiteboard toilets in the class room
 47 interactive, 1 computer
 48 very small room with 32 children in the room with 3 different classes
 there are two classes in the one classroom. This year my child's class has been split between 2
 49 rooms
 Refurbished in the last 6years.
 50 Every class room has 2 bathrooms.
 51 PE
 Mixture of new and old classrooms - facilities in old classrooms are poor in particular heating and
 52 toilets
 The school was built by parents approx. 20 years ago and is showing its age. While the school has
 many interesting features, it needs upgrading. We have been tryng to improve the facilities for
 53 several years now and the process has been arduous and longdrawnout.
 54 No computers, no wifi
 55 My daughter is in a new classroom, just built.

56 Plenty of reading books, but no networked computers with wifi. Lots of space for activities, drama etc

57 Only 2 weeks ago had paper towel dispensers installed in the toilets. Until now, each child had to bring their own towel, despite the fact a working washing machine and dryer are on the premises.

58 Some toilets have no ventilation at all.

59 No hall for PE, No storage for books etc, no where to eat lunch, very few computers.

60 Modern extensions with art work spaces, library areas, play areas

61 I think so , I dont know

62 Has interactive white board,however very small and very poor flooring.

63 Excellent supported by parentd

64 Funded by Parents Association not Gov

65 We gained a fourth teacher this year which is great but unfortunately the school did not have a classroom, This means that the hall has been divided to accomodate the class. This means the children do not have access to a hall which is vital in bad weather and was used for badminton,P.E.,

66 Drama,Dance etc

67 She shares the classroom with another year.

68 The senior room is a little small for 22 children in the senior group (classes 3-6), the younger children (15) having the larger room as they move about more during the day. A spare meeting/classroom has been added recently and is used mainly for extra lessons with the resource teacher, this alleviates the situation. It is also a venue for meetings for teachers and parents.

69 Especially since the completion of the move into new classrooms from prefabs. Parent's council provide additional facilities such as white boards

70 THEY ARE IN A CLASSROOM NOT PREFAB

71 The space is adequate for teaching 4 different classes in one room simultaneously.

72 There are three classes in my childs classroom 2nd, 3rd and 4th

73 Technology could be much better

74 recently the large classrooms were divided to accommodate a new social needs unit- classrooms are better, but they can seem tight on space

75 white boards and computers

76 Updated a few years ago.

77 Have white boards and computers

78 Computers in some of the classrooms.

79 Rooms are well equipped with all the children need to do their work.

80 don't know really. i would guess they are average,

81 Excellent facilities

82 Mostly refurbished or new classrooms

83 It is an old prefab building (wood) with no insulation and electric heating

84 Sharing teacher with a more senior class

85 The student numbers are large and a concern.

86 Due to new school extension

87 Much of the IT equipment has been purchased through PA fundraising. A new classroom has also been built, largely through fundraising activities.

88 My daughter has good classroom space but the other facilities such as the toilets are absolutely disgraceful, by modern standards.

89 Much of the IT equipment and other resources are funded by PA fundraising.

90 in a prefab, cold in the winter and too hot in the summer, there are more prefabs at the school than proper buildings

91 Yes and no - we had two new classrooms built a few years ago and the facilities with these are very good - however there is a prefab being used as a classroom which is in very poor condition

92 Love how intimate the classes are, this is why I choose this school

93 Cloak room and toilet and sink

94 Mostly because of parental funding.

95 It is the other facilities that require investment

96 Six new build classrooms are fantastic but the four older ones are very small, damp and dark

97 She is in a new part of the school - extended in the past 10 years or so...

- 94 The school is only recently built however because of the excessive number of pupils in the class, the classroom is overcrowded.
- 95 The school needs better IT and learning needs facilities
- 96 School is old and really needs to be revamped
They have a few play area and a cosy corner for reading books. A wash up area for arts time and toilet facilities in the classroom.
- 97 Toilet facilities in the classroom. Wash-up area for after arts time.
- 98 Bright airy classrooms. Overhead projector
- 100 They have 1 class per classroom. Bright and airy. Computer facilities
- 101 He is located in a pre-fab
6th Class located in GP Room with office, staff room and 3 sets of double doors leading to other parts of school, with constant through traffic.
- 102 shared classrooms between different years - works ok but not ideal
toilets in each class, bright and airy rooms. Have a good resource room and library also.... this is because of A LOT OF fundraising from school and PA.
- 104 It is a new School building, however, there are a lot of facilities still lacking.
- 106 the school was extended within the past ten years
Yes. There is a spare classroom for activities, like Christmas concert, making St. Brigid's crosses, etc.
- 107 All recently renovated
- 108 All newly extended and renovated
- 110 Toilets are in the class room. Whiteboards are in use.
- 111 Classroom is too small for 31 pupils. Three new classrooms are more spacious and larger
The classrooms are tiny and the numbers are increasing. We desperately need a new school. The school is over 100 years old! We are lucky to have a young staff of teachers who have brought the schools technology up to scratch, but physical space is a huge problem.
- 112 Newly refurbished
- 113 Small rooms
- 114 Excellent school
- 115 He's in a prefab.
- 116 Severe dampness
There was a new extension added to the school a few years back which dramatically improved the classroom space
- 118 No gym, no space to do PE

No library room

Not enough space for coats/shoes
- 119
- 120 Yes have been lucky to get two new classrooms
- 121 Very basic and tight on storage
computers very poor, really old, white board yes but Internet connection so poor it doesn't always work.
- 122 New build 2015
Well depends what you're comparing to- but I think the facilities are

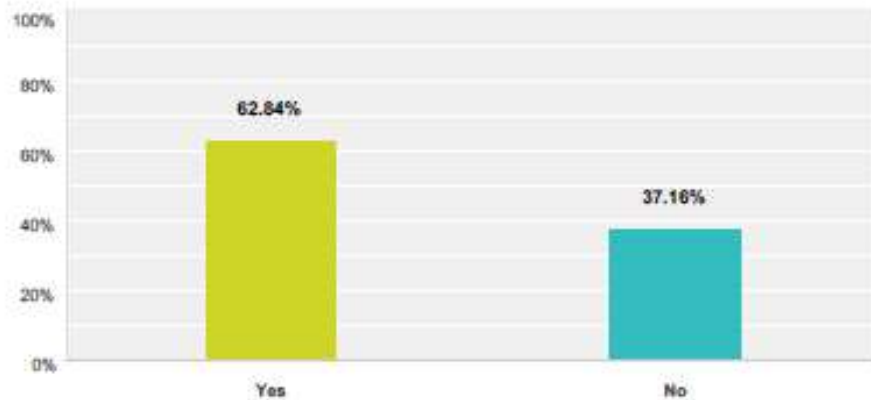
poor they don't have science facilities or a music room with music equipment. They don't have an indoor sports room and so can't do physical education when it is wet and cold (most of the year). The rooms are small so that with classes of 30-33 it is hard to fit all the desks in and there is no space for learning areas around the classroom e.g. a literacy corner or a dedicated computer space. And the computers they have are very scarce (maybe 4 to be shared amongst 33 kids) and also very old. In addition wifi access is very unreliable in our area and we don't yet have broadband so kids can't rely on internet access for their learning.
- 124
- 125 Warm, safe and secure classroom facilities are provided.
My 10 year old is in a prefab due to not having enough classrooms inside the building. Apparently it's hot in the summer, cold in the winter and smells (her words!) I think it's disgraceful that if the kids
- 126

- have to go to the art room, for resource hours/reading groups etc that they have to go outside to get there. Also, the prefab is quite close to the road (not overly busy but still people drive fast along it) which I feel is a danger.
- parents committee have supplied interactive white boards etc. it's also has had a new classroom built this year to accommodate the growing number of children attending and the PA has also fundraised for this.
- 127 Have interactive white boards , toilet facilities in rooms
- 128 Old building being kept intact.
- 129 New school building in 2013
- 130 Toys, books, toilet, interactive whiteboard
- 131 Overcrowded prefabs and one class on split site
- 132 my child is a slow learner and I feel the school don't do enough for him. he does go out to resource class and has been for a while now.
- 133 Toilet ,whiteboard heating
- 134 we are lucky enough to have been allowed to extend our school so the children are no longer in prefabs. the school is comfortable warm well full of the children's beautiful art work and seems well equipped.
- 135 Small classrooms
- 136 Classrooms are very small
- 137 Interactive whiteboards which are good but not enough additional IT equipment for individual use.
- 138 No safe grass area
- 140 White board, access to laptops with WiFi. Nice storage along with clean, new flooring
- 141 Parents association has funded laptops and white boards
- 142 Have Interactive white boards
- 143 Its a new build. 2009. Classrooms have toilets in the classroom space (ie no walking halls to toilets). They have an excellent library facility and computer facilities. They have wonderful natural lighting.
- 143 They have interactive white boards.
- 144 6 rooms in use one recreational room and rousing room
- 145 No technology, only 2 toilets per 20 kids (1 girls and 1 boys). Very uncomfortable seats. No other seating options no cushions or bean bags or anything else.
- 146 Playground too small
- 147 Very small
- 148 No computer skills available
- 149 Small classrooms
- 150 Very few and very old computers. 1 toilet per 15 boys and 1 toilet per 15 girls. Card board boxes under the table as storage facilities, no library in the school, each room has a small bookshelf
- 151 Computers, laptops, sink ,toilets for each classroom, space to move around
- 152 Loo is smelly and carpet on the floor...
- 153 Great space
- 154 They need more classrooms as some of rooms are too small, they need a p.e hall as the school has no hall to go in when raining and they have to stay in the classrooms.
- 155 Very cramped & old. Space is limited &
- 155 Expansion required to modernise the facilities
- 156 Deis school
- 157 They have laptops, I pads, school book rental scheme, sports field, tennis and basketball court, equipment, homework club
- 158 Limited computer facilities
- 159 They are kept clean and well maintained but the school is facing exceptional hardship with decreasing numbers and so smaller capitating grants but cost of lighting, heating, minor repairs are all static.
- 160 minimal classroom facilities as all have to be obtained with fund raisers.
- 161 The toilet facilities need to be updated in all classrooms.
- 162 Excellent
- 163 Two classes in one room. Rooms are well stocked
- 164 Excellent

165 Excellent facilities
 166 fundraising by the parents association ensures relevant equipment is purchased for the school
 167 Whiteboards provided by the Parent's Assoc, access to laptops, a TV.
 168 they could be better. floor covering is old and needs replacing. computers old and need replacing.
 169 They have whiteboards, bought by Parents Assoc., access to laptops, a TV & a special needs unit.
 170 Second classroom is too small
 Yes, however my child is in bunranganna room, currently in 1st class and particularly when she was
 younger it would have been better if the class room was bigger to allow a bigger play area, bean
 bags for the small library(book shelves), water play area, a sink, a toilet actually in the classroom as
 opposed to the toilet being on the corridor outside the classroom.
 171
 172 No computers in classrooms
 173 Three of the classrooms are very small and not suitable for classes above 20
 yes in total there are 3 classes together 4,5 & 6. In my child's class there are 6 children and 16
 174 children in total
 175 Facilities such as broadband, tablets/laptops, projectors etc need upgrading
 Just moved into new building so we not sure of the facilities. However I can say the new school has
 176 a multi purpose hall. This is the first time any child in the village has a hall in their school!
 177 They have got extension including new classroom and a unit for special needs.
 178 No computer access, no room for a nature table, no sink, no room for bookshelves
 179 Small neat and 2 classes per teacher And old school but we'll maintained and refurbished
 Whilst the classroom contains 3 class years (junior infant (7) /senior infant (5) & 1st class (3)) the
 class sizes & ages are similar which works extremely well - Any deviation from this would I feel be
 180 detrimental to our children's education.
 The school consists of 2 portacabins and whilst they are in good condition the cost of heating them
 is not considered in the departments allocation of funding. The knock on effect is additional costs to
 181 parents to support the circular activities.
 182 Facilities are ok-have seen better in other schools
 The classrooms are good but overcrowded. There are 13 in my child's class but around 30 in the
 183 room as there are two classes per classroom.
 184 The class room is shared with another year.
 185 I think so
 186 Old school building, small classroom but newer school for older children.
 Previously the infant classes were in prefabs but these were replaced last year when a new
 classroom was built. However, there are two classes per classroom, so despite being a new room,
 187 there are 30 children in it, making it the room with the least physical space in the school.
 The classroom forms part of a building that is 115 years old, there is mould from damp and the
 partitions between rooms are insufficient so a lot of noise moves between rooms which is distracting
 188 for the children.
 My daughter's classroom is in a building that is 115 years old, there is damp visible on the walls and
 189 the partition walls between classes is insufficient in terms of noise
 190 Old school.in sufficient space and bathrooms.
 School is very basic classrooms have not been updated in long time same carpet flooring for over
 30yrs. Toilets very poor and sanitary ware not always working. No room for classes to meet up
 191 together no hall or sports area.
 I would wish for one teacher/one class. My child class is split. Therefore he shares with another
 192 class.
 193 basic
 Yes but at the expense of parents and Board of Management they have paid for Interactive
 194 whiteboards and laptops etc .
 195 Just waiting on new extension to open
 196 There are 30 children in class room as 2nd 3rd and 4th together. Very busy room.
 197 The classrooms are too small to comfortably accommodate multi stream classes
 198 Newly opened this year
 The classroom facilitates 3 classes with a total of 24 pupils and is too small to accommodate
 199 comfortably this number of pupils

Q9 Does your child's school have good recreational facilities?

Answered: 619 Skipped: 213



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	62.84%	389
No	37.16%	230
Total		619

Q9 Does your child's school have good recreational facilities? Further comments

- 1 They do pe 2 times a week.
- 2 Playing pitch needs to be improved
- 3 Situated in a forest
- 4 Just a grass area and a tarmac area, it needs some type of play equipment, otherwise boys playing football is the only option
- 5 due to a fund raised locally to purchase facilities, co-ordinated by staff and parents, not provided by Dept of Education
- 6 Not allowed on the grass a lot of the time
- 7 No pitch, small grass area and small yard for alot if children
- 8 They use the pe hall as a class room
- 9 Nothing to play with ie swings slides etc
- 10 could be improved - grass area is waterlogged
- 11 relatively good i.e. climbing /swings/slides etc but the pitch is constantly water logged
- 12 there is a good grass area, a woodland area but no PE hall. A 30 year old prefab is too unsafe and small to use. Otherwise a hallway in main school is used (also a prefab). But it is noisy for the classrooms not doing PE.
- 13 Not enough yard space
- 14 Outdoor area only
- 15 No proper hall, indoor facilities
- 16 As provided by the combined efforts of the teachers and the parents
- 17 As provided by the teachers and parents of the school
- 18 Again as provided and sourced by the teachers and parents of the school
- 19 No hall for indoor p.e. School relies on good weather to have p.e.
- 20 No hall for P.E only outdoor yards
- 21 Could be better
- 22 good outdoor and indoor facilities
- 23 No school hall

24 Cant use the indoor PE hall as it is a classroom now.

25 We are a Steiner/National school and most of the facilities are maintained by the parents
We have no indoor hall for PE or shows etc. Our old ting PE hall is now a classroom. Outdoor

26 plating fields and yard are great but when weather is bad, no PE.

27 no school hall, no gymnasium
This year we don't as the school hall has to be used as a classroom so if it's raining there is

28 nowhere for pe

29 No hall as being used as classroom
Small muddy field at rear of the school and a very small tarmac area at front but are waiting to move

30 to new school being built

31 The new class build will take away for this recreational space.

32 A new class is being built so this will take for the recreational facilities

33 No School Hall, no sports pitches, poor outdoor basketball court

34 Not at present. Can't comment on new school yet.

35 Not at present as the new school is being built.

36 Basketball court, playground, large GP room, football pitch

37 Basketball court, large GP room, football pitch, playground

38 No football pitch or green area to grow veg, herbs even flowers or trees.

39 No football pitch

40 No sports field eg football

41 No outdoor equipment

42 It's ok, better than some. They have a grass area and concrete area for wet days
No playground at all, no markings on the play area surface, no all-weather access areas, no PE

43 most weeks
Not enough outdoor play areas - classes must share /take turns on a tarred court - field too wet to

44 play on alot of time

45 Not enough outdoor spce

46 Have a GP room. Great space outside with nice playground, goalposts and basketball nets.
School hall is too small to accommodate senior classes PE and can not fit all children during

47 assembly time.

48 Hall football pitch basketball court

49 No playground

50 they are ok not very much space
No multi purpose or recreational room in school.

51 Poor playground and yard facilities for breaks

52 very little afterschool activities/care

53 they could be better but they are not bad

54 Just a small yard and a wet mucky pitch, they play in car park during school hours
We have a great hall and two lovely yards and a school garden. These also are provided largely

55 with the effort of fund-raising from parents and the local community.

56 There is a playing field, basketball court and small playground for younger children but the space in
the basketball court can be cramped in the winter time when the field is out of use

57 No grass, could have more space. Parents Assoc recently raised money for outdoor play equipment
which was well received by kids.
Basketball court

Pitches

58 Hop scotch

59 After school actives

60 no hall so must stay in when its raining
no tarmacadam just concrete / grass / kids get very wet in it when weather is not good. not enough

61 room for them all to play together
yard space still not sufficient eg. they are only allowed play football every second week. running is

62 limited. certain games like sharks and fishes are banned from time to time

63 A playground with creative designs on the tarmac for winter and grass they can run around on in

summer

64 they play football, hurling tennis, go swimming.
School hall is old and too small for number of children - school have applied for funds to department

65 but refused
The school does not have sufficient playground space for all classes meaning the children play in

66 mucky/wet areas at brealtime.

67 Fair facilities, tarmac area , grass area , limeted indoor facilities

68 The school is situated in a woodland area and the children get to play outdoors a lot.

69 Have a playing pitch

70 There is no school hall and the outside space is small.

71 A playing pitch but this gets muddy in wet weather.
They have a P.E. hall they can't use, bad space outside. Each class is allotted a piece of the tiny
tarmac yard to play on, they don't have nearly enough. They're not allowed to play on the grass,
which there is a lot of, only in summer. They had a lovely jungle gym frame and swings, but took
them down, as a pupil broke his arm from a fall on it, and it also didn't pass Health and Safety

72 inspection.

73 Could have better. I.e small playground area for younger kids would be great.

74 Needs more space. Sports field

75 Funded by Parents Assoc not gov

76 No they could do with more outdoor activity areas...
No hall for sport so when it's raining there's no pe. Same at lunch time, no getting out of the

77 classroom

78 Space is at a premium as the school has expanded

79 Very little space
The area is small for this size of school. No playing pitches. A playground was installed this summer

80 which is nice.

81 Little play area
It's ok but has a relatively small playground partly tarmac and grass on a slope, no sport field or

82 swimming pool.
Perhaps not compared to some schools in that there are no sports-grounds. However there is a

83 basketball and tennis court and new slides.
They have a new playground, however compared to other schools which have sensory rooms etc
recreational facilities are a bit basic

84 No real extra curricular activities except sports which not all children enjoy
Minimal. Outside playground is good but on the small side as well as sloping - awkward for playing
football and fairly muddy... we have no sport fields other than use in the local village. The next
swimming pool is about 10km away. It is a struggle to keep facilities and sport equipment in good

85 shape.

86 There is no play equipment for children or even a bench for them to sit on.

87 No running track or pitch

88 No pitch or running track.

89 mostly grass - which meands the children can't access it for most of the year

90 lots of playing fields

91 A new playground with equipment put in place this year.

92 lots of playing fields around the school
They have grass areas to play on, a shelter, games painted on tarmac areas. However the ballcourt

93 they have could be resurfaced

94 they are basic, though there are plans to build a hall

95 Brilliant space to play.Excellent sports fields!
A tarmac yard with a tennis court and basketball court, which are in good condition, but no

96 gymnasium or proper sports ground, football pitch, etc.

97 there is enough space and great nature around but no real space to do sports or so inside...

98 The school makes a big effort to maximise recreational activities.
They have a good outdoor pitch but there are no other covered playing areas so in bad weather

99 they can't play games etc.

100 football, guitar, gymnastics

101 The are very short of outdoor space, ie for running, football etc
 102 It has a good grassed area but on wet days this can't be used and the tarmac area is very small for
 103 the number of children now in the school
 104 Our school hall is far too small, the whole school can stand but no other room to move
 105 Playground, sports equipment
 106 Gym and playground with playground equipment.
 107 Tiny hall my living room is bigger no cooking facilities for home economics. little space in yard no
 108 room for kids to have a game of football unlevel grounds steps down
 109 Indoor hall is inadequate and far too small
 110 The recreational facilities were upgraded this year through extensive fundraising by the community -
 111 otherwise the playground would be very basic. The junior children have a very small area to run
 112 around and nothing else.
 113 Our school hall is not fit for purpose, it can hold maybe 50 children maximum. We have yard space
 114 but no green area - cross country training involves running round the yard!
 115 School Hall is very small and old
 116 But like always, they could be improved. They are good but basic
 117 mostly a concrete play area with tarmac basketball area (only for certain senior classes) and a
 118 football pitch (which they are only allowed on from time to time) - therefore she is mostly limited to
 119 the concrete year which is not overly stimulating....
 120 Bees. Chicks. Allotment
 121 yard is crowded, field can be dirty
 122 Adequate for size
 123 The school would really benefit from an all purpose room
 124 A new court area with games on it and a large playing field
 125 Large playing area and a new court area with lots if activities imbedded in to the court.
 126 Large playing field and court area
 127 A large playing field to the rear of the building andna court area to the front
 128 The school has added extra buildings in the past 2-3 years and the number of children attending
 129 has increased, so the area to play/move around in is not sufficient. They are encouraged to walk
 130 not run in the playground
 131 There is a green pitch but children are not allowed use except for about two months of the year.
 132 Need to cross road to access green area, yard area is very small, crowded
 133 PE HALL/ASSEMBLY HALL TO SMALL TO COPE WITH NUMBERS NOT ENOUGH PLAYING
 134 AREA
 135 We are lucky enough to have a good yard and some years ago we fund-raised money to buy the
 136 adjoining field so now have a pitch. However we could do with better facilities so children have more
 137 to do on yard.
 138 There is not enough space outside which can be used for child's play, given the number of children
 139 out at break time together.
 140 a tarred yard
 She attends music outside school. The school has a pitch, shelter, and court to play on.
 Community Playground and astro turf adjacent to school
 Community worked to provide playground and astro turf adjacent to school
 Large hall and yard and football pitch.
 Very good "halla" and large yard
 Extension being built is taking up half of he yard
 There is no hall therefore we are depending on weather to see if my child can have pe or not
 No hall to do P.E
 There is an emphasis on sport in our school. There is a green field adjacent to the school where the
 children play Football. It is not a proper size but they do manage to produce very talented
 footballers. Just our wonderful teachers making do because they are passionate about our children
 achieving!!!
 Small, enclosed yard.
 Astroturf
 No school hall no gym no amenities
 Huge space

141 Could be better. Limited on wet days.
 142 No hall for sports but could do with one especially on wet days for P.E . Etc..
 143 Their playroom is been used for a naoinra
 144 There is a yard and small grass area
 145 Not enough pe time
 146 See above
 147 Our outdoor play area is small
 148 Our outdoor play area is small
 149 Have large concrete area and two football pitches one of small
 150 Limited outside space
 151 Overall outside space is limited
 152 There is no general purpose room for wet days. Only 1 small basketball court for juniors and seniors. No all weather surface for older kids - they are constantly coming home covered in muck!
 153 No sports facilities. Very small yard to play in.
 154 Small outdoor space, no sports facilities
 155 Very small yard, no room for sports fields/basketball court
 Needs re surfacing urgently as many have fallen on the un even surface. There is plenty of room for playing both on tar mac and green grass
 156
 157 There is nothing age appropriate available for outdoor play!
 158 but all Gaa based
 159 New build 2015 with new gym hall although outdoor play area is very limited space
 The school is surrounded by a small tarmacademed area with a basketball court on one side. There is a small grassed area beyond this but it does not have enough space for all students to play in comfort and so they must self select for the chance to play ball games and the girls tend to avoid the area.

 There is no playground equipment and a very small amount of play accessories e.g. Some skipping ropes and hoops,and a few sandpits but children have to kneel on wet ground to play with them.
 160
 161 No hall nowhere when it rains
 The children have to cross a busy regional road to access the yard at lunchtime. There is no indoor
 162 hall.
 There is no PE room, the kids have to go to the community centre in the village (2 min walk) to use the hall there. Not ideal in wet weather, nor is it ideal that there is only 1 teacher with them (in cases where there's no SNA in the room) should anything happen to a student whilst during PE
 163 There is no PE room/hall as this was turned into classrooms. The children have to walk down to the local community centre to do their PE Activities during cold and wet weather.
 164 But it could be better with more outside activitoes to choose from.
 165 Yard very small and no green area as when school was built it was only a two classroom school.
 166 Very congested play area with no option to expand.
 167 Have a naural (un surfaced) running track, basketball nets in the yard.
 168 Average playground and pitch no indoor gym. But access to community hall
 169 Yard + grass. Use of community hall + sports pitches a short walk away. So really yes +no.
 170 A tarmac yard put in as part of the new school and an Astroturf pitch funded by Parents Association.
 171 There is a hall
 172 The yard is quite small for so many children. Especially as several new pupils have mobility issues..
 The yard is quite small for so many children. Especially as we have several now pupils with mobility
 173 problems.
 174 Just has a pitch which is closed, tarmac and tennis court
 175 Borrow secondary school yard
 The school has a lovely playground and fields. There is a basketball court and climbing frame with
 176 swings.
 parents get notes home in bag re activities that are happening one day before it happens don't give
 177 working parents enough time to be organised for the kids

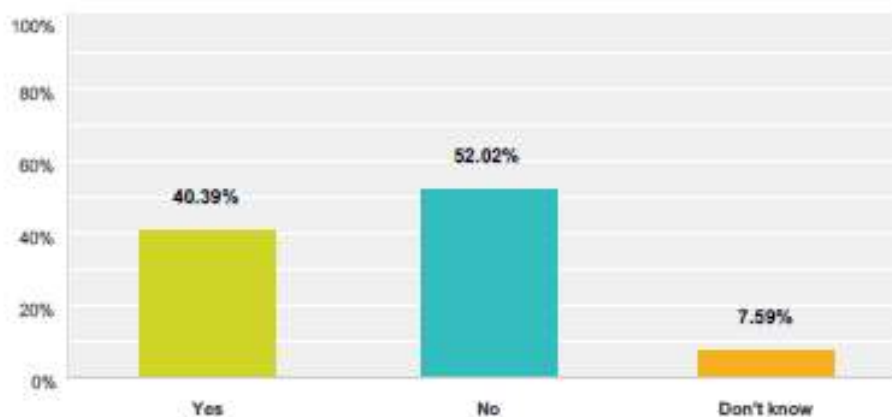
178 We as a PA have funded a sensory garden but other than that it is tarmacadum and a football pitch.
 179 No they play on a Tarmac yard which has potholes some of which were repaired recently by the
 180 school itself as the dept wouldn't fund resurfacing
 181 Small yard. No green area. Only 2 balls allowed. None for junior classes
 182 Small yard... no green area.. only 2 balls on yard for 8 classes. 2 junior classes none
 183 It has a great big open field pitch at the back fully fenced-in very safe that's only used 2/3 times a
 184 year
 185 Large Sports Hall
 186 Large Outdoor yard but not enough on offer for children to choose freely during breaks...All adult-
 187 lead.
 188 Tiny outdoor playground no indoor facility.
 189 No PE hall. Library is in the staff room.
 190 Just an empty yard where they're not allowed to run for fear a child will be injured
 191 No sports room, kids eat their lunch in classroom & stay in classroom when raining
 192 A really good hall within the building. A playground area for the J&S infants. Astro turf pitch. A
 193 gazebo for sitting and socializing. Tarmac'ed yard with hopscotch and other games painted on.
 194 No school hall, no sports hall, no sports equipment, no play equipment. If it rains the kids stay in
 195 their classroom as there is nowhere else for them to go. They can't put on school shows or do
 196 anything where a group might congratulate unless we all stand outside. PE has to be done outside if
 197 it's raining there is no PE. No technology except for a few old computers, several kids would have to
 198 share one computer. No school library
 199 No indoor P.E available so when it's wet there is no P.E .. a hall is needed
 200 No school hall, no sports hall, no sports equipment, no play equipment, no technology. If it rains the
 201 kids have to stay in their classrooms as there is nowhere else for them to go.
 202 Tarmac soccer pitch, basketball court
 203 Children not allowed play soccer
 204 No school hall/gymn.
 205 There is a severe lack of outside play area and the indoor general purpose room is not big enough
 206 for sports activities.
 207 All happy
 208 No hall
 209 Outdoor recreation is fine but only due to the fact that the kids are allowed use an adjacent
 210 community pitch next door. Indoor recreation facilities almost non existent due to lack of space.
 211 Summer camp, tennis camp at Easter, Halloween camp
 212 No hall or space for indoor activities, concerts, plays
 213 No sports facilities
 214 There is only a small area of grass for them to play on and no spots equipment to use.
 215 Boys and Girls School combined further work could be done to improve facilities such as ball
 216 playing surfaces
 217 we have no hall or covered area for wet days, children play on tar as grass area is waterlogged.
 218 Excellent
 219 Playground, yard, insect hotel, Asteroir room
 220 Excellent
 221 They have a large green area
 222 Hall football field basketball court play area school garden
 223 School yard is too small, children keep falling, they are not allowed to run.
 224 fundraising by the parents association ensures relevant equipment is purchased for the school
 225 Playground has been built on and is getting smaller and smaller though the Parent's Assoc. has
 226 installed an enclosed play area with swing, slide, climbing frame.
 227 No internal recreation area
 228 The playground has been built on & is getting smaller & smaller though an enclosed play area with
 229 swings, slides, climbing feame was also installed by the Parent's Assoc.
 230 Limited hard surface for outdoor winter breaks
 231 School grounds on slope
 232 The school yard is set in a beautiful natural green spacious surroundings with a good play ground,
 233 small green football pitch and + small vegetable garden and with beautiful scenery of lakes and

- mountains in the distance. It is an idyllic setting! Allowing our children play, run, exercise + be creative with their peers, the likes of making bug houses during break. However the school could benefit from a shelter/ awning at the front door for pick up when it's raining. Also the school is lacking a school music program ie musical instrument tuition/school band. The tin whistle is taught for 8 weeks of the school year through group tuition from 1st class upwards which is great but no other instrument is taught either in school or after school hours despite requests from parents. Our children would really benefit from a school music program, provision of more musical instrument tuition, resourcing the school with instruments + tuition which could be loaned out to pupils. More music exposure would benefit our children on many levels! Additional Space would also be needed to store instruments when not in use.
- Our children save the fruit + vegetable from the school garden + teachers then cook the produce with them, great experience. However would be benefit if more cooking/ baking could be done with the children if there was a bigger kitchen.
- 218 Just have a small basketball court outside. No gym hall or anywhere to do exercise in building. In bad weather the children cannot do PE as they have no sports hall or spare room to use. In this day and age when obesity and mental health is so important I think it's a matter that should be
- 219 addressed as soon as possible.
- 220 No indoor hall just have outdoor pitch
The school yard is set in beautiful green spacious natural surroundings with a good playground + small green football pitch + small vegetable garden and with beautiful views of lakes + mountains in the distance. It is an idyllic setting for a small school allowing our children to play, run, exercise and be creative with their peers in a green natural environment where they can make the likes of bug houses with their friends during break. During the warm weather early last summer the older 2 classes in bun ranging had classes outside at a picnic table, enjoying the sunshine while learning!
- 221 My child just went into Ard Ranganna classroom this year.
- 222 They have a basketball court and pitch.
- 223 No school hall for activities on a wet day, yard in need of repair
Not sure yet. The new school building just open 2 weeks ago the builders are working on the
- 224 playground carpark.
building for an ASD unit, which is a great cause, has eaten into what little play ground space the
- 225 kids had. Very little room left.
- 226 plenty of outdoor space but no sports facilities or indoor recreational space
- 227 New astro turf pitch
- 228 They have a large area for outside play along with a lunch room & library/chill out area for wet days
The school has a tarmac yard and the teachers and children have made a small but lovely garden. However there are no sports facilities inside or outside the school and the children have to be
- 229 bussed several miles to sports pitches etc.
- 230 only school yard
During recreation, if weather does not permit going outside, the kids have to remain seated at their
- 231 seat and speak quietly.
- 232 Could do with an indoor gym
- 233 Outdoor and physical is limited. No shelter for outside.
Senior and junior students all sandwiched in the same yard until lately. Also closure of recreational
- 234 yard lately due to subsidence of school yard (which is only 2 years old!).
- 235 Very small outdoor play area and no inside play area if weather bad.
- 236 But they need an AstroTurf pitch
There is little outdoor space bar a pitch (typically waterlogged and unusable) and a carpark. The school badly needs a halla/hall - or a space for children to use for both PE and break time. Taking the children to a local parish hall is a big cost each year for both bus hire and hall hire, particularly
- 237 when you have more than one child in the school.
- 238 Nearly non existent
Very little outdoor space, except for a pitch and car park bought by the school using a credit union loan which the current families have to service. Typically, the pitch is water logged and unusable,
- 239 particularly from October to March each year.
- 240 It could do with a green area for football etc
There is little outdoor space - the school purchased some land to develop a pitch, but this is typically waterlogged and unusable by the children - they therefore have reduced outdoor time and physical
- 241 education.

- 242 Play area is too small.
Mainly gaa . Have recently added rounders . Would like to see children introduced to other sports.
- 243 Dance and music/art
- 244 there is plans into install a playground. At present there is unused playing field
- 245 Not enough space
All children are split into their different classes when in the yard, and have no space. They are not allowed mix with other classrooms. And presently my child is assigned to the basketball court and spend most of their breaktime dodging balls.
- 246 They need more permanent outdoor equipment
- 247 Nothing for them to do during break
- 249 School lacks outdoor space
There is a grass area which can be used in dry weather but totally unsuitable in the winter time. There are concrete and tarmacadam areas also, and each class is assigned to an area. Some areas are quite small and all in all the yard/s (as some of it is the enclosed carpark) are too small for the number of children.
- 250 Too small play yards not allowed to run. However have access to gaa pitch when weather is good
- 252 No outdoor shed
- 253 They are getting better through PTA fund raising etc
They have a field and cement to play on. They have goal posts and basketball facilities. It is all boys in the school and only 2nd to 6th class
- 254 Don't go to pe, yard is small
- 255 Facilities yes but opportunities limited to due staff levels
- 257 They have no hall for rainy days for PE, playing at breaks etc.

Q10 Is there a school transport scheme available for your child to use?

Answered: 619 Skipped: 213



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	40.39%	250
No	52.02%	322
Don't know	7.59%	47
Total		619

Q11. If there is no school transport scheme available (or you are unsure if there is such a scheme) for your child to use, how does your child get to school?

Response	Count of Response
Car	275
Car/Cycle	2
Car/Walk	37
Car/Walk/Cycle	5
Carpool	3
Childminder	3
Creche Transport	7
Private bus	2
Taxi supplied - S.E.N	1
Walk	34
Grand Total	369