

Education Budget 2017

Educate Together briefing document on the costs of establishing new schools in Ireland

400 new schools by 2030

The Programme for Government commits the Department of Education and Skills and the Minister of Education to:

“Strengthen parental choice and diversity in our school system, reflecting the need in modern Ireland for new forms of multi-denominational and non- denominational education.... We will increase the number of non-denominational and multi-denominational schools with a view to reaching 400 by 2030.”

This ambitious commitment needs to be followed up with targeted funding to the voluntary school patrons that establish these schools.

Facts about funding for new schools

- Current Government funding doesn't come close to covering the real financial costs incurred by voluntary school patrons.
- There is **no grant for opening new second-level schools** at present.

Educate Together's fully costed plan for educational equality

- Right now, Educate Together offers a **fully costed, practical, achievable plan** to embed equality in the education system: the establishment of a national network of equality-based primary and second-level schools.
- Educate Together has opened **ten times as many new schools** as any other single patron in the past ten years.
- Educate Together schools are **equality-based schools** - schools that don't demand proof of religion at the front gate; schools that don't segregate children along religious lines during the school day; schools that **cherish all children equally**.
- There are now an estimated **15,000 - 20,000 student's names signed up to campaign lists all over Ireland**. These are names signed up for both primary and second-level Educate Together school places. **That number grows every day**.

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What can be done to ensure that the opening of new schools is properly funded in Ireland?

1) New School Grants

The schedule of grants for opening new schools must be reformed as a matter of urgency, so that any new grants:

- meet the **full costs incurred by management bodies** in opening schools;
- are **paid directly to management bodies**;
- are **paid as soon as schools are sanctioned**;
- are financed from **outside the capitation budget**. This work is one-off, capital-type expenditure, and should not reduce in any way the monies available to schools, which are already underfunded.

2) Core Grants for Management Bodies

There is an urgent need to **review Educate Together's core grant**. This grant is now lower - at €133,000 - than it was in 2007, when Educate Together represented just 40 schools, in comparison to the 90 we now represent.

We hope that you will support proposals for a new, realistic scheme of funding for this vital work, as this is imperative if real progress is to *made towards providing school choice for parents and communities in Ireland*.

How much this costs:

Establishing an Educate Together Primary School - value for money

2

A building for the school

€17,500

Seeking and identifying an existing building or land for building, in conjunction with the State.
Ensuring the building is fit for purpose for an Educate Together school.

4

Recruiting a Board of Management

€5,600

Recruitment of volunteers to sit on school board of management.
Delivering world-class training to ensure the smooth running of a school.

1

A group of parents dedicated to opening an Educate Together school for their child

€13,000

Assessing areas in terms of demographics, parental demand and school type availability.
Developing a group of parents skilled in campaigning, project and event management.
Ongoing awareness-raising in community to build a list of children to attend school.

3

Staffing the school

€10,900

Hiring the best principals and teachers
Delivering ethos training to ensure teachers and principals embody the ethos of Educate Together

5

School Support during Start-up phase

€21,000

Providing bespoke, school specific support to the Principal, Board and Parent groups, to ensure the school builds a strong foundation based on the Educate Together Charter.

€68,000 per National School - to serve local community for decades to come.

How much this costs:

Establishing an Educate Together Second-level School

2

A building for the school

€10,200

Seeking and identifying an existing building or land for building, in conjunction with the State

Ensuring the building is fit for purpose for an Educate Together school

4

Recruiting a Board of Management

€9,000

Recruiting volunteers to sit on school board of management
Delivering high quality training to ensure the smooth running of a school

1

A group of parents dedicated to opening an Educate Together school for their children

€11,800

Assessing areas in terms of demographics, parental demand and school type availability

Developing a group of parents skilled in campaigning, project and event management

Ongoing awareness-raising in community to build a list of children to attend school

3

Staffing the school

€51,000

Hiring the best principals and teachers

Delivering ethos training to ensure teachers and principals embody the ethos of Educate Together

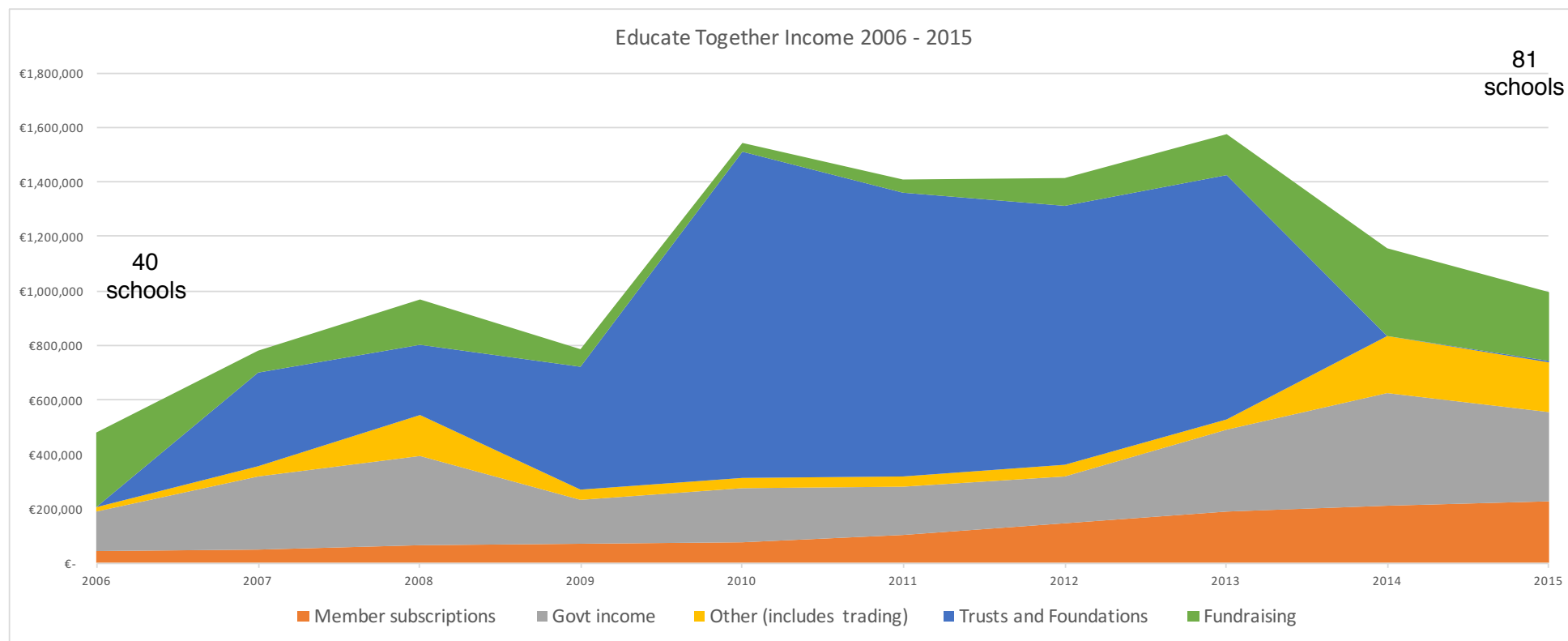
5

School Support during Start-up phase

€20,000

Providing bespoke, school-specific support to the principal, board and parent groups, to ensure the school builds a strong foundation based on the Educate Together Charter.

€102,000 per Second-level School - to serve local community for decades to come.



(government income includes Department of Education and Skills, Pobal SSNO, EU and Irish Aid)

CHART SHOWS:

- Need to source additional funding
- Successful diversification of income streams
- Successful increase in income from membership, fundraising and sales of services in Ireland and UK

Decline in Department of Education and Skills funding per pupil	2006	2016 (to date)
Department of Education and Skills funding	€144,000	€223,000
No. of pupils	7,500	21,000
Grants per pupil	€19.20	€10.62