



Charging for School Trips Research Report

Version 2

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Preface

Research into Oxfordshire residents' views about school trips was undertaken in December and January 2006, using the Oxfordshire Citizens' Panel. The research was split into two parts.

Part 1 – Questions for Citizens' Panel members who have children in a state school in Oxfordshire (i.e. those run by Oxfordshire County Council) about their experience and attitudes towards school trips.

Part 2 – Questions for all Citizens' Panel members about their general views to charging for school trips.

Most of this report is based on a sample of 233 panel members who have children in state schools in Oxfordshire, unless otherwise indicated. Therefore, it should not be considered as statistically representative of the views of all parents in Oxfordshire. Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to rounding-up figures or the exclusion of 'neither agree nor disagree' and 'don't know' categories.

Executive summary

Number and destination of school trips

- A majority of Citizens' Panel members indicate their children have attended a trip of some type in the last 12 months. 95% of panel members with children at primary school and 84% with children at secondary school indicate their children have attended a non-residential school trip. 30% of panel members with children at primary school and 67% of panel members with children at secondary school indicate their children have attended a residential school trip.
- The total number of trips undertaken by a sample of 218 state primary schoolchildren in the last 12 months is **757 non-residential** trips and **60 residential** trips. This represents 3.5 non-residential trips per child and 0.3 residential trips per child. The majority of non-residential trips were to a sports centre (35%) and/or a museum/arts centre/exhibition (27%).
- The total number of trips undertaken by a sample of 189 state secondary schoolchildren in the last 12 months is **351 non-residential** trips and **147 residential** trips. This represents 1.9 non-residential trips per child and 0.7 residential trips per child. The majority of non-residential trips were to a museum/arts centre/exhibition (32%) and/or to a play/show/theatre (28%).

Charging

- For the last non-residential trip their children attended, 6 out of 10 of parents with children in state primary schools and 3 out of 10 of parents with children in state secondary schools were asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the trip.
- For the last residential trip their children attended, 4 out of 10 parents with children in state primary schools and 6 out of 10 parents with children in state secondary schools paid the full cost of the trip.

Attitudes towards school trips

- 2 out of 3 parents surveyed believe that non-residential school trips are value for money and/or good quality.
- 7 out of 10 parents surveyed believe that whether or not a parent is able to give a voluntary contribution towards a trip should not determine whether a child should go.

Key Findings

1. Responses to the survey

- 1.1 Of those panel members with children in state school, 151 indicate they have children in state primary schools and 130 have children in state secondary schools. This includes 49 who have children in both. This represents 218 primary schoolchildren and 189 secondary schoolchildren.
- 1.2 Please note that this research only covers panel members who have children in state schools and does not include those who have children in private schools.

Non-residential School Trips

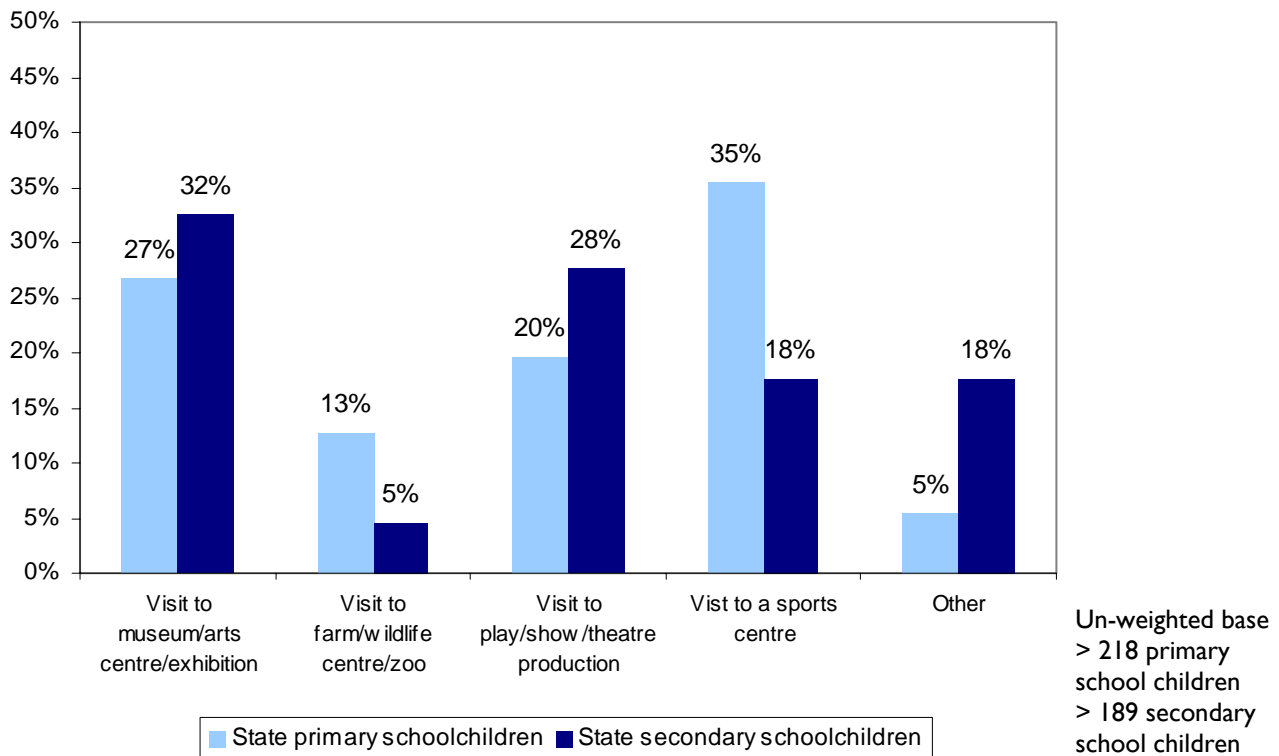
2. Numbers of 'non-residential' school trips

- 2.1 The majority of Citizens' Panel members indicate their children have been on a non-residential trip of some type in the 12 months. 95% of panel members with children at primary school and 84% with children at secondary school indicate that their children have attended a non-residential school trips in the last 12 months.
- 2.2 The total number of non-residential school trips undertaken in the last 12 months by Citizens' Panel members' children who attend a primary school is **757**. This is based on a sample of **218** children and represents an average of **3.5 trips** per child. However, if 'visits to a sports centre' are excluded this drops to 489 trips, representing around **2.2** trips per child within the last year.
- 2.3 The total number of non-residential school trips undertaken in the last 12 months by Citizens' Panel members' children who attend a secondary school is **351**. This is based on a sample of **189** children and represents an average of **1.9 trips** per child. However, if 'visits to a sports centre' are excluded this drops to 289 trips, representing around **1.5** trips per child within the last year.

3. Type of 'non-residential' school trips

3.1 A majority of the non-residential trips undertaken by primary schoolchildren were to visit a sports centre (35%), visit a museum/arts centre/exhibition (27%) and/or visit a play/show/theatre production (20%). For secondary schoolchildren the majority of the non-residential school trips were to visit a museum/arts centre/exhibition (32%) and/or a play/show/theatre production (28%). These results indicate a wide range of trips were undertaken, particularly by primary schoolchildren.

Types of non residential trips undertaken in the last 12 months



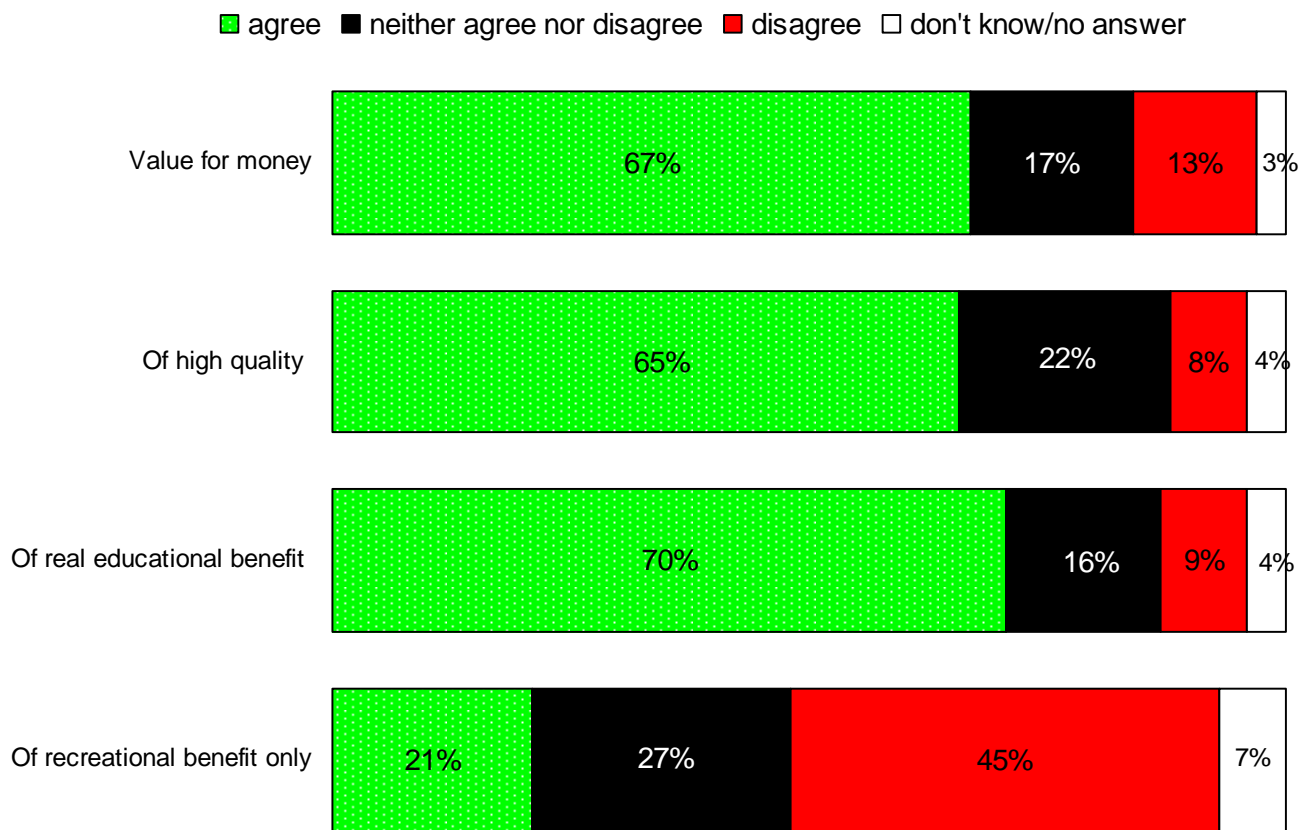
3.2 Around 2 in 3 of panel members who have children in state schools agree that non-residential school trips are both value for money (67%) and good quality (65%). There are no significant differences in attitudes between parents with children at primary or secondary school.

3.3 7 out of 10 panel members (70%) who are parents agree that non-residential school trips are of 'real educational benefit' with 21% 'strongly' agreeing with this. There is slightly stronger agreement with this statement from those with children in primary school (+65% net agreement) compared to those in secondary school (+55% net agreement).

3.4 2 out of 10 panel members (22%) agree that non-residential school trips are of 'recreational benefit only'. Again there is slightly stronger opinion that school trips are of 'recreational benefit only' amongst those with children at secondary school (agree 25%) compared to those with children at primary school (agree 17%).

Attitudes towards school trips by parents with children in state schools

'I believe that the school trips for children in Oxfordshire's schools are...'



Un-weighted base - 233

4. Charging for non-residential school trips

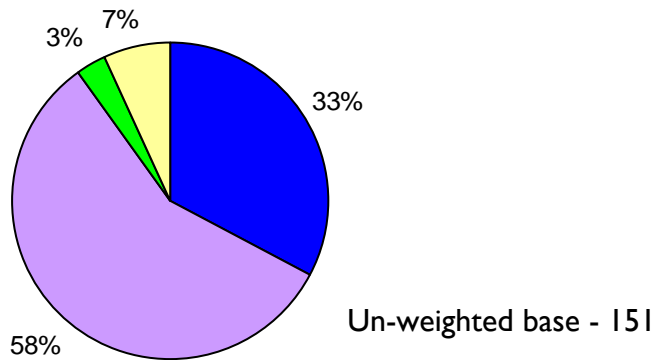
(these refer to the last non-residential trip attended by children)

Around 6 out of 10 parents (58%) with children in primary school indicate that they were asked to make a voluntary contribution towards the last non-residential trip their children attended. 3 out of 10 parents (33%) with children in secondary schools also indicate they were asked to make a similar voluntary contribution.

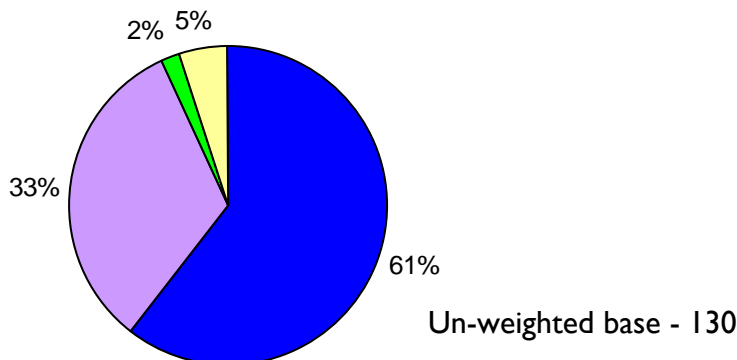
Around 3 out of 10 parents (33%) with children in primary school indicate they were asked to 'pay the full cost'. This compares to 6 out of 10 parents (61%) with children in secondary schools. 3% of parents with children in primary school and 2% of parents with children in secondary school, indicate they were not charged for the trip.

1 in 10 parents (10%) with children in primary school indicate they were shown a breakdown of the individual costs for the last non-residential trip. 1 in 20 parents (5%) with children in secondary school also indicate they were shown a breakdown of individual costs.

Parents with children at state primary schools - charging for the last non-residential trip undertaken



Parents with children at state secondary schools - charging for the last non-residential trip undertaken



- I paid the full cost
- I was asked to make a voluntary contribution
- I was not charged for the trip
- No answer/Don't know

Residential School Trips

5. Number of residential school trips

5.1 There is a marked difference between primary and secondary schools, with regards to residential trips undertaken in the last 12 months. 30% of Citizens' Panel members with children at primary school indicate their children have attended a residential trip. This compares to 67% of panel members with children at secondary school who indicate their children have attended a residential trip.

Primary schools

5.2 The total number of residential school trips undertaken by 218 primary schoolchildren in the last 12 months is 60. Of these 83% (50) were residential trips taken in term time during the school week. Two trips (3%) were taken at the weekend in term-time and 8 (13%) were taken out of term-time. 72% of respondents indicate that no residential trips have been taken in the last 12 months during the school week, 99% indicate that none have taken place at weekends and 98% indicate that none have taken place out of term time.

Secondary schools

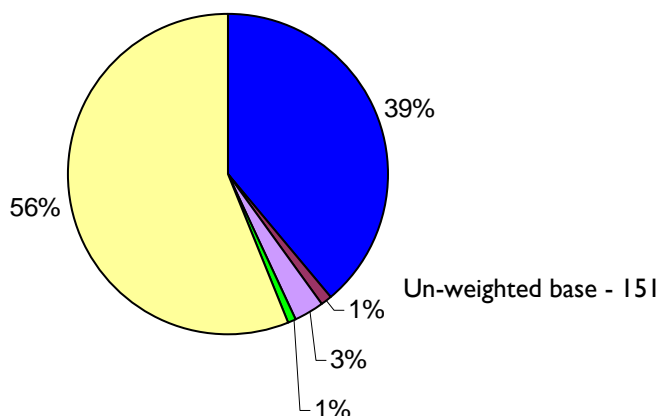
5.3 The total number of residential school trips undertaken by 189 secondary schoolchildren in the last 12 months is 147. Of these 44% (84) were residential trips taken in term-time during the school week and 30% (44) were taken out of term-time. 58% of respondents indicate that no residential trips have been taken in the last 12 months during the school week, 92% indicate that none have taken place at weekends and 82% indicate that none have taken place out of term-time

6. Charging for residential trips
(these refer to the last residential trip attended by children)

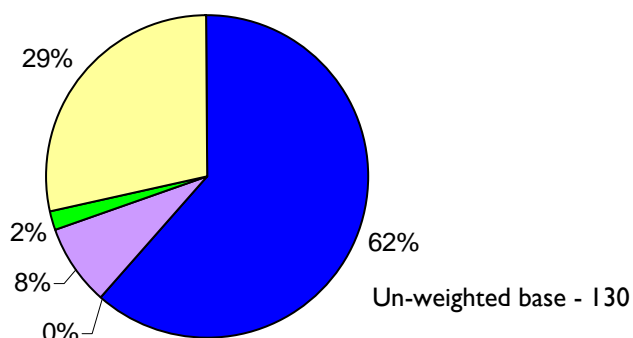
6.1 4 out of 10 parents (39%) with children in primary school indicate that they paid the full cost of the last residential trip their child attended. This compares to 6 out of 10 parents (62%) with children in secondary school who indicate they paid the full cost.

6.2 3% of parents with children in primary schools and 8% with children in secondary schools indicate they were asked for a voluntary contribution towards the full cost of the last residential trip their child attended.

Parents with children at state primary schools - charging for the last residential trip undertaken



Parents with children at state secondary schools - charging for the last residential trip undertaken



- I paid the full cost
- I was asked to pay board and lodging and make a voluntary contribution towards the rest
- I was asked to make a voluntary contribution
- I was asked not to pay
- No answer

6.3 Thinking of the last residential trip their children attended, 3 out of 10 parents (30%) with children in primary school indicate that they were only shown the total cost of the trip. This compares to around half of parents (49%) with children in secondary school.

6.4 1 in 10 parents (10%) with children in primary school indicate that they were shown a breakdown of individual costs for the last residential course their children attended. 5% indicate they don't know and 56% did not give an answer. This compares to 1 in 6 parents (17%) with children in secondary school who indicate they were shown individual costs for the last residential course their children attended. 4% indicate they don't know and 31% do not give an answer.

7. Attitudes towards school trips

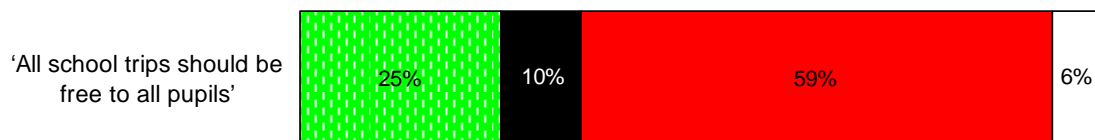
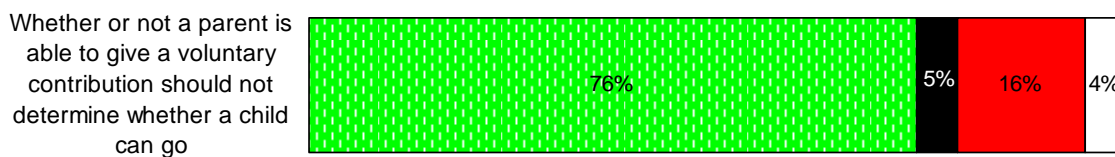
7.1 1 in 4 parents (25%) with children in state schools agree that all school trips should be free to all pupils. 6 in 10 parents (59%) disagree. There is slightly stronger opinion that all school trips should be free to all pupils (37%) from panel members without children in state schools.

7.2 7 in 10 parents (76%) believe that whether a parent is able to give a voluntary contribution towards a trip should not determine whether a child can go. This level of support is in line with the opinion of panel members without children in state schools (77%).

7.3 8 in 10 parents (80%) disagree that children whose parents are not able to make voluntary contributions should NOT go on school trips. This level of support is in line with the opinion of panel members without children in state schools (79%).

Attitudes towards school trips – parents with children in state school (%)

Agree
 Neither agree/nor disagree
 Disagree
 Don't know



Un-weighted base - 233

ANNEX I – MARKED-UP QUESTIONNAIRE

SCHOOL TRIPS

UN-WEIGHTED DATA USED FOR THIS SECTION

Un-weighted base = 233

Total number of respondents = 233

	Primary school only	Secondary school only	Both	Total
Total no. of respondents with children	102	81	49	232*

*1 person indicated they had children but not which schools they attended

Total number of children at primary school = 218

Total number of children at secondary school = 189

In this section, we would like to find out your views about the provision of school trips taking place in state schools (run by Oxfordshire County Council).

Q21 – Q22 should be answered just by parents who have children in state schools (those run by Oxfordshire County Council).

Q23 should be answered by all Citizens' Panel members.

Q21 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about school trips?

I believe that the school trips for children in Oxfordshire's schools are ...'

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer
a)	Value for money	18%	49%	17%	11%	2%	3%	*
	Agree	67%						
	Disagree	13%						
	Net agree	+54%						
b)	Of high quality	17%	48%	22%	7%	1%	3%	1%
	Agree	65%						
	Disagree	8%						
	Net agree	+57%						
c)	Of real educational benefit	21%	49%	16%	7%	2%	3%	1%
	Agree	70%						
	Disagree	9%						
	Net agree	+61%						
d)	Of recreational benefit ONLY	5%	17%	27%	34%	11%	3%	4%
	Agree	21%						
	Disagree	45%						
	Net agree	-24%						

Q22 In the last 12 months, how many **NON-RESIDENTIAL TRIPS** have your children taken?
(a trip made in school time, ranging from a couple of hours to a full day)

Please indicate for each child

1. Whether they are at primary or secondary school
2. The number of different types of non-residential trips they have had in the last 12 months.

PRIMARY SCHOOLCHILDREN

Based on 218 primary schoolchildren

No. of Non-residential trips (for each type)

	Visit to a museum/ arts centre/ exhibition	Visit to a farm/wildlife centre/zoo	Visit to a play/show/ theatre production	Visit to a sports centre	Other please specify)
Number of trips in last 12 months	203	97	148	268*	41
Number of trips per child (INCLUDING those who have not taken a trip)	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.2
Number of children who have not taken a trip	52	111	92	140	168

SECONDARY SCHOOLCHILDREN

Based on 189 secondary schoolchildren

No. of Non-residential trips (for each type)

	Visit to a museum/ arts centre/ exhibition	Visit to a farm/wildlife centre/zoo	Visit to a play/show/ theatre production	Visit to a sports centre	Other please specify)
Number of trips in last 12 months	114	16	97	62	62
Number of trips per child (INCLUDING those who have not taken a trip)	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.3
Number of children who have not taken a trip	92	165	95	149	120

Q23 Thinking of the last NON-RESIDENTIAL TRIP your children attended were you asked to 'pay the full cost', 'make a voluntary contribution' or 'were not charged for the trip'.

	I paid the full cost	I was asked to make a voluntary contribution	I was not charged for the trip
All parents with children in state schools	44% (103)	46% (107)	3% (6)
Parents with children in <u>primary</u> school	33% (151)	58% (87)	3% (5)
Parents with children in <u>secondary</u> school	61% (79)	33% (43)	2% (2)

Un-weighted base = 233

Q24 Thinking of the last NON-RESIDENTIAL TRIP your children attended, were you shown a breakdown of all the individual costs or just the total cost of the trip prior to your child attending?

	Parents with children in <u>primary</u> school (151)	Parents with children in <u>secondary</u> school (130)	All parents with children in state schools
No, I was only shown the total cost of the trip only.	74%	85%	78% (182)
Yes, I was shown a breakdown of the individual costs for the trip <i>(please tick which costs were separated out)</i>	10%	5%	8% (18)
Transport costs	10%	5%	8% (18)
Admission costs	9%	5%	7% (17)
Staff costs to cover trip	1%	4%	* (1)
Administration costs	1%	2%	1% (3)
Other	1%		1% (2)
Don't know/can't remember	7%	3%	5% (11)
No answer	8%	7%	9% (20)

Q25 In the last 12 months, how many RESIDENTIAL TRIPS have your children taken?

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Based on 151 respondents with children at primary school

Number of Residential Trips

	In TERM-TIME During the SCHOOL WEEK for the majority of trip	In TERM-TIME At the WEEKEND for the majority of the trip	Out of TERM-TIME (i.e. school holiday)
Total no. of trips	50	2	8
Total number of respondents indicating NONE	108	150	148
Total number of children indicating NONE	152	217	213

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Based on 130 respondents with children at secondary schools

Number of Residential Trips

	In TERM-TIME During the SCHOOL WEEK for the majority of trip	In TERM-TIME At the WEEKEND for the majority of the trip	Out of TERM-TIME (i.e. school holiday)
Total no. of trips	84	19	44
Total number of respondents indicating NONE	76	119	107
Total number of children indicating NONE	41	57	148

Q26 Thinking of the last RESIDENTIAL COURSE your children attended, were you shown a breakdown of all the individual costs or just the total cost of the trip prior to your child attending?

	PRIMARY (151)	SECONDARY (130)	OVERALL
Yes, I was shown a breakdown of the individual costs for the trip <i>(please tick which costs were separated out)</i>	10%	17%	13% (30)
Transport costs	8%	9%	8% (18)
Admission costs	4%	7%	5% (12)
Staff costs to cover trip	*	*	* (1)
Administration costs	3%	4%	3% (6)
Board and lodging costs	7%	9%	7% (17)
Other			1% (2)
No, I was only shown the total cost of the trip only	30%	49%	34% (80)
Don't know	5%	4%	4% (9)
No answer	56%	31%	49% (114)

Q27 Thinking of the last RESIDENTIAL COURSE your children attended, which of the payment options did you choose?

(please tick one option)

	Option 1 I paid the full cost of the trip	Option 2 I was asked : a) to pay for board and lodging in full b) and make a voluntary contribution towards the rest	Option 3 I was asked for a voluntary contribution towards the full cost of the trip	Option 4 I was not asked to pay for the trip	No Answer
Primary (151)	39%	1%	3%	1%	56%
Secondary (130)	62%	*	8%	2%	29%
Overall (233)	45%(105)	* (1)	6% (13)	1% (3)	48% (111)

For all Citizens' Panel Members (weighted data)

Q28 Under current legislation schools are not permitted to charge parents for costs associated with school trips (unless they are charging for board and lodging) but they are allowed to ask for a voluntary contribution towards the trip.

On the balance of opinion how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following?

(Tick one box for each row a to c)

a) I believe that all school trips should be free to all pupils

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer
<i>Those with children in state schools (233)</i>	15%	11%	10%	38%	21%	*	6%
<i>Those without children in state schools (1056)</i>	14%	23%	12%	27%	14%	1%	10%

b) I believe that whether or not a parent is able to give a voluntary contribution towards a trip should not determine whether a child can go.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer
<i>Those with children in state schools (233)</i>	43%	33%	5%	8%	8%	2%	2%
<i>Those without children in state schools (1056)</i>	46%	31%	6%	6%	4%	1%	7%

c) I believe that children whose parents are not able to make voluntary contributions should not go on school trips.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No answer
<i>Those with children in state schools (233)</i>	4%	6%	4%	22%	58%	1%	6%
<i>Those without children in state schools (1056)</i>	2%	3%	3%	21%	59%	2%	11%

a) I believe that all school trips should be free to all pupils

	Those with children in state school	Those without children in state school
Agree	25%	37%
Disagree	59%	41%
Net Agreement	-34%	-4%

b) I believe that whether or not a parent is able to give a voluntary contribution towards a trip should not determine whether a child can go.

	Those with children in state school	Those without children in state school
Agree	76%	77%
Disagree	16%	10%
Net Agreement	+60%	+68%

c) I believe that children whose parents are not able to make voluntary contributions should not go on school trips.

	Those with children in state school	Those without children in state school
Agree	10%	5%
Disagree	80%	79%
Net Agreement	-70%	-74%