new

UK Research Series

Research

Authored by
Richard Connor

Our annual review of school and resource budgets for this year and the coming year, with expectations for spending on key resource groups. Analysed from school business managers across over 1200 schools.

Full report & tabulations available for all questions

Members can download all files from the BESA website in the 'Insights' section

besa

BRITISH EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

Education Expenditure

Resources in English Maintained Schools – Issue 28

2022 Edition

Panel research

SOURCING THE KNOWLEDGEABLE

PANEL-BASED ONLINE SURVEYS

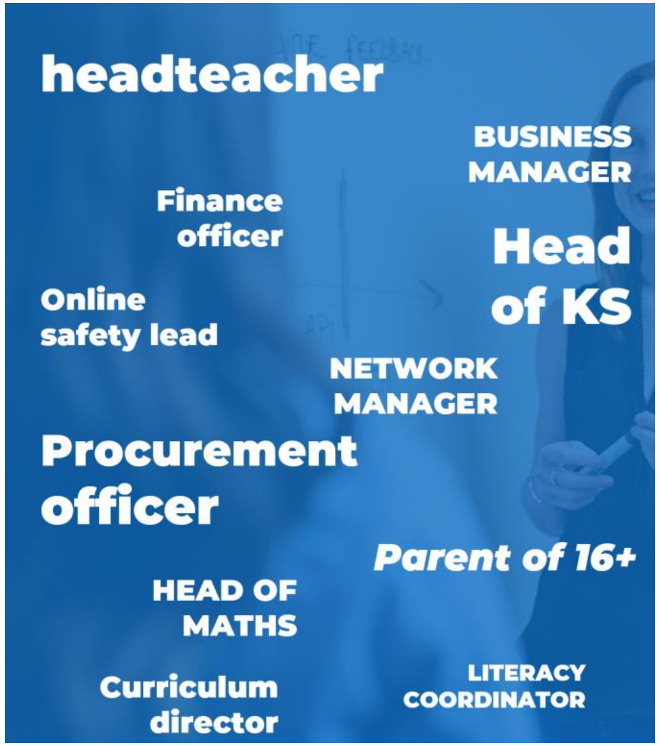
Linking to our nationally-representative 11,000+ senior leader, administrator and teacher panels offering 40-65% response rates

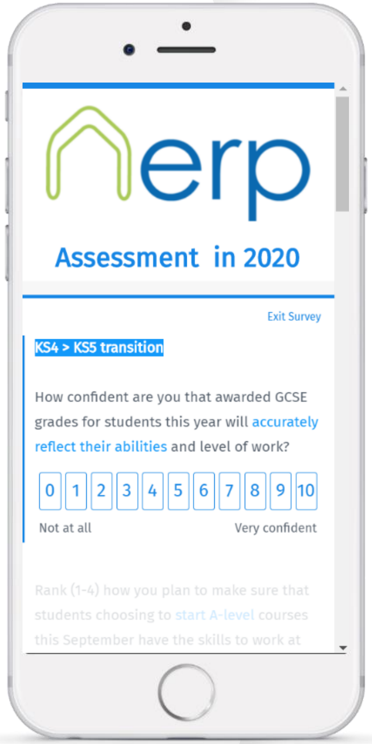
MOBILE-FOCUSSED DELIVERY

Over half our surveys are responded to on smartphones, so we ensure questionnaires are quick and easy to complete

COMMUNITY TARGETTING

Ensure you reach only the professionals you want to understand – no blanket mailings necessary with our role-based panels





This report is compiled from data collected from opted-in members of the National Education Research Panel (NERP), operated by C3 Education.

Stratified sampling

n=1208

To ensure a representative view of the marketplace numerous prerequisites were put in place, which included ensuring a broad spread of responses from across the UK, school size profiling and split by sector and school type.

Sector	Pupil numbers	Responded	Population*
Primary	Small (<200 pupils)	125	5,375
	Medium (200 to 320)	363	5,402
	Large (>320 pupils)	264	6,014
Secondary	Small (<740 pupils)	60	1,002
	Medium (740 to 1080)	205	1,128
	Large (>1080 pupils)	191	1,328
Total	All	1,208	20,249

* as of October 2021

English Region	Schools	% of sample
South West	124	10%
South East	124	10%
London	141	12%
East of England	140	12%
East Midlands	154	13%
West Midlands	119	10%
Yorkshire / Humber	127	10%
North East	150	12%
North West	129	11%
ENGLAND	1,208	100%

This report is compiled from data collected from opted-in members of the National Education Research Panel (NERP), operated by C3 Education.

Sampling

Excel tabulations available

	A	B
1	LINKS	Resources in English Maintained Schools
2		
3	T2.1.1	Indicate your effective school budget (availabl
4	T2.1.2	Indicate your forecast effective school budget
5		
6	T2.2.1	Indicate your general resource budget for iten
7	T2.2.2	Indicate your general resource budget for iten
8		
9	T2.3.1.1	What was your recurrent budget spending on
10	T2.3.1.2	What is your recurrent budget spending on fu
11	T2.3.2	Will there be any capital allocations for furnit If so, please indicate anticipated allocations ir
12	T2.3.3	What percentage of your 2021/22 furniture sp
13		
14	T2.4.1	What was your spending on teaching aids and
15	T2.4.2	What are your spending plans for teaching aic
16	T2.4.3	What percentage of your 2021/22 teaching aic
17		
18	T2.5.1	What was your recurrent budget spending on
19	T2.5.2	What are your spending plans on stationery a
20		
21	T2.6.1.1	What was your spending plans on ICT hardwa
22	T2.6.1.2	What is your recurrent budget spending on IC
23	T2.6.2	Will there be any capital allocations for ICT in If so, please indicate anticipated allocations ir
24	T2.6.3	What percentage of your 2020/21 and 2021/2
25		
26	T2.7.1	What is total spending when all recurrent and
27	T2.7.2	What is spending likely to be when all recurre
28		
29	T2.8	What is the difference between resource budg
30		
31	T2.9.1	What was spending when all recurrent and ca
32	T2.9.2	What is spending likely to be when all recurre

Responses to each question are made available – including trend data where relevant.

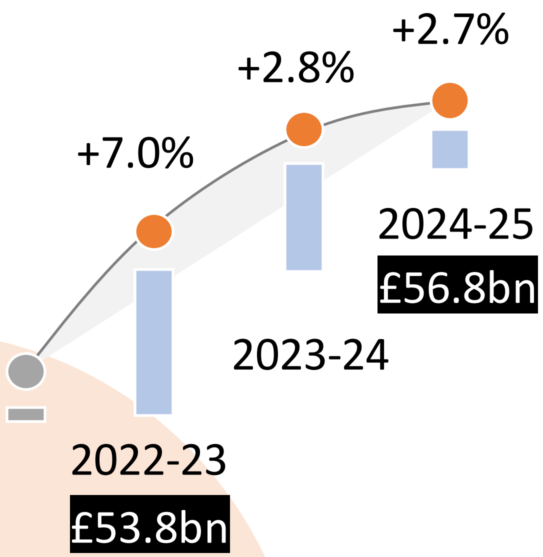
B	C	D	E	F	G
Resources in English Maintained Schools					2022
What is your anticipated recurrent budget spending on teaching aids and equipment in 2021/22 and what is it likely to be in 2022/23?					
Teaching aids and equipment					
PRIMARY					
School type	2021/22	2022/23		Change on 2021/22	VALUE OF 2022/23 CHANGE
All primary (PER SCHOOL)	£ 14,765	£ 15,271		3.4%	£ 506
All primary (NATIONAL ALLOCATION)	£ 247,919,115	£ 256,415,361		3.4%	£ 8,496,246
All primary (PER PUPIL)	£ 53.20	£ 55.02		3.4%	£ 1.82
				PRIMARY #	16,791
				PUPIL#	4,660,264
				PUPIL/SCHOOL	278
SECONDARY					
School type	2021/22	2022/23		Change on 2021/22	VALUE OF 2022/23 CHANGE
All secondary	£ 51,748	£ 49,657		-4.0%	-£ 2,091
All secondary (EXTRAPOLATIONS)	£ 178,944,584	£ 171,713,906		-4.0%	-£ 7,230,678
All secondary (PER PUPIL)	£ 51.22	£ 49.15		-4.0%	-£ 2.07
				SECONDARY #	3,458
				PUPIL#	3,493,507
				PUPIL/SCHOOL	1,010
ALL COMBINED					SUMMARY
School type	2021/22	2022/23		Change on 2021/22	CHANGE IN VALUE SINCE 2011
All primary	£ 14,765	£ 15,271		3.4%	2.1%
All secondary	£ 51,748	£ 49,657		-4.0%	-18.6%
TREND: Per School	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	PRI change	SEC change	CHART
Yr. 2011/12	£14,950	£60,970			
Yr. 2012/13	£15,460	£61,820	3.4%	1.4%	
Yr. 2013/14	£15,770	£62,990	2.0%	1.9%	
Yr. 2014/15	£16,270	£63,750	3.2%	1.2%	
Yr. 2015/16	£16,510	£62,370	1.5%	-2.2%	
Yr. 2016/17	£15,810	£58,950	-4.2%	-5.5%	
Yr. 2017/18	£15,200	£57,210	-3.9%	-3.0%	
Yr. 2018/19	£15,440	£59,670	1.6%	4.3%	
Yr. 2019/20	£14,940	£54,120	-3.2%	-9.3%	
Yr. 2020/21 [updated]	£13,570	£49,050	-9.2%	-9.4%	
Yr. 2021/22 [PROJ.]	£14,770	£51,750	8.8%	5.5%	
Yr. 2022/23 [F'CAST.]	£15,270	£49,660	3.4%	-4.0%	

Summary

What is changing in school funding allocations?

Cash terms funding growth*

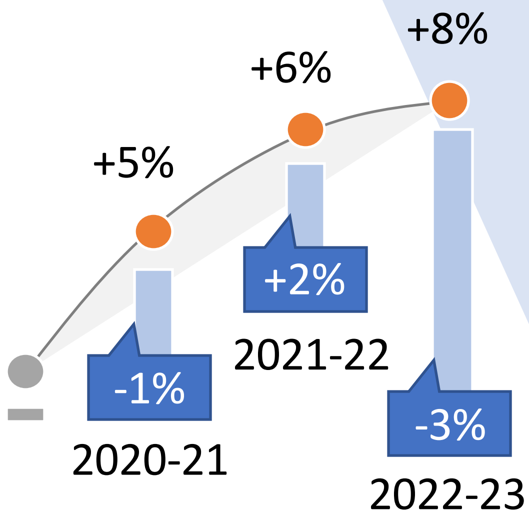
Core Schools Funding



* Department for Education

How are schools adapting to changes in funding allocations?

Spending changes*

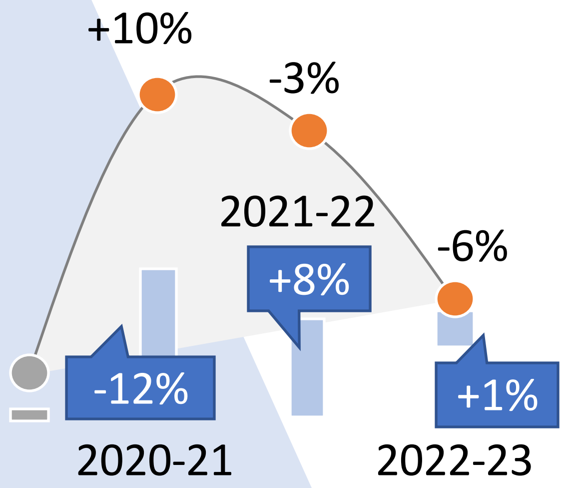


School budget allocations

Resources spending

What resources have benefitted, and which have suffered from contraction?

Spending changes*

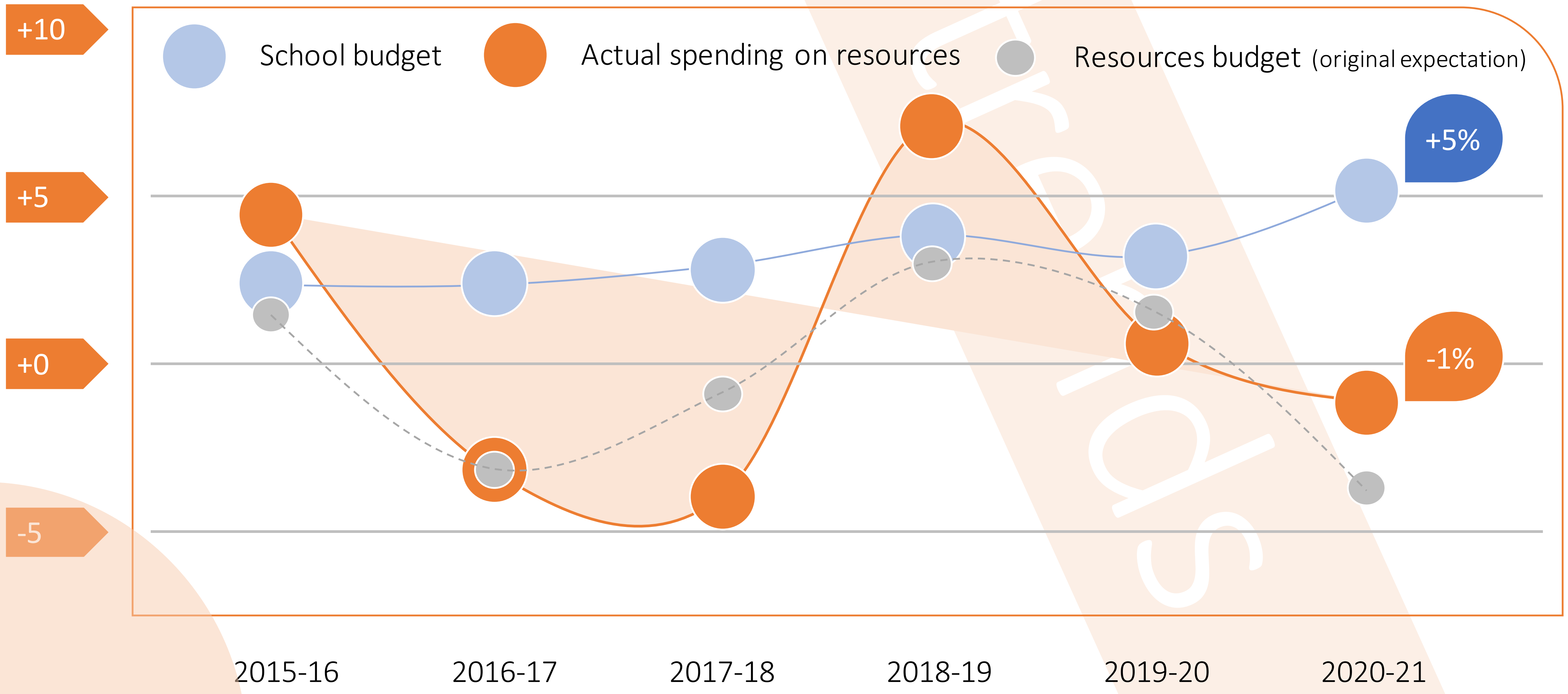


ICT resources

Non-ICT resources

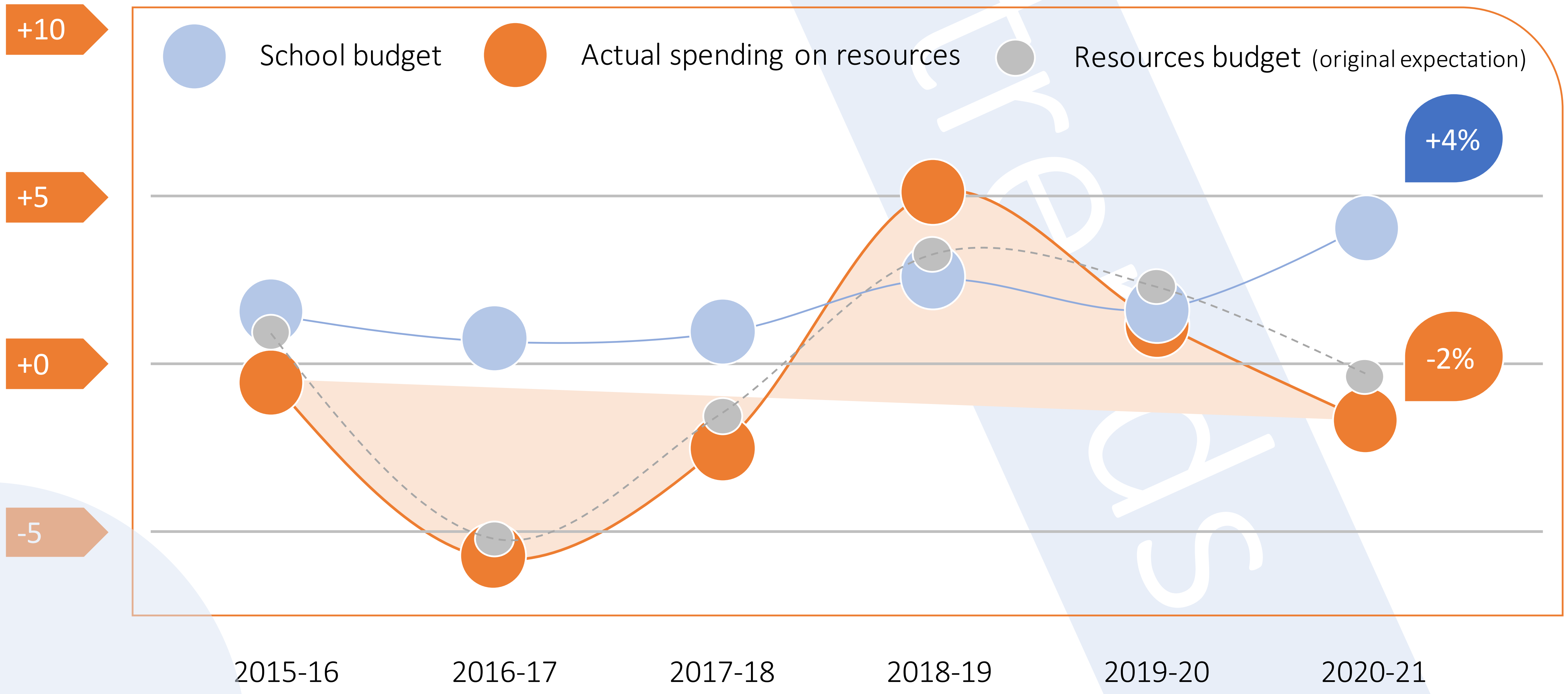
Trends

PRIMARY SECTOR



Trends

SECONDARY SECTOR

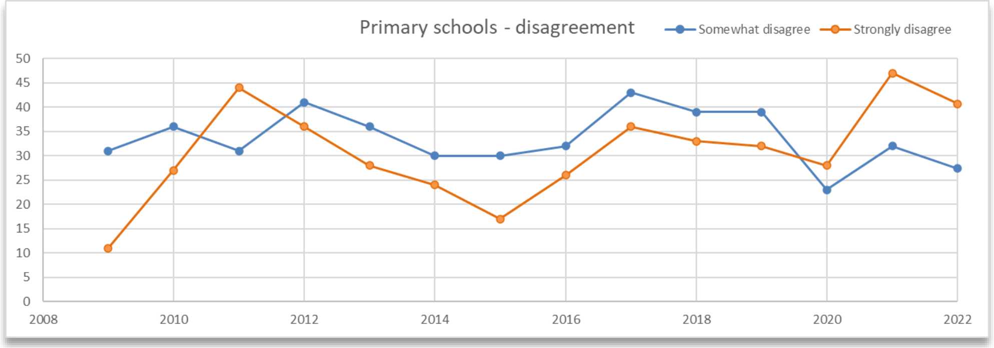


Opinions on resourcing

NOTE

On each slide you will see a 'T' designation, such as 'T1.1.1'. This notation refers to the table reference in the accompanying spreadsheet to this report. The tabulations provide a complete view of the question, response options and the responses (including between authority schools and academies).

Optimistic about funding next year?



Primary

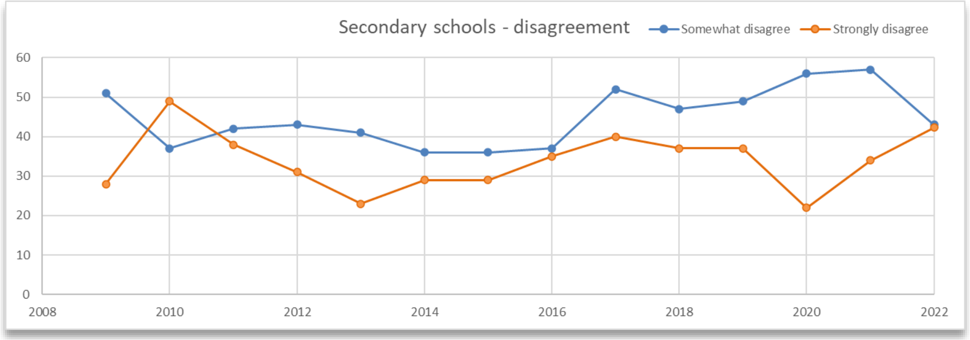
Last year recorded sharply reduced optimism about the funding for the following year. The pessimism persists; however, a fifth of primary schools now record that funding for 2022-23 will likely improve.

Strongly or somewhat agree

+14% over 2021 **20%**

Secondary

Optimism over funding in 2022-23 is likely to come under pressure again, with more secondary schools now strongly disagreeing with the statement. However, this still leaves only 9% of secondary schools being optimistic about funding.

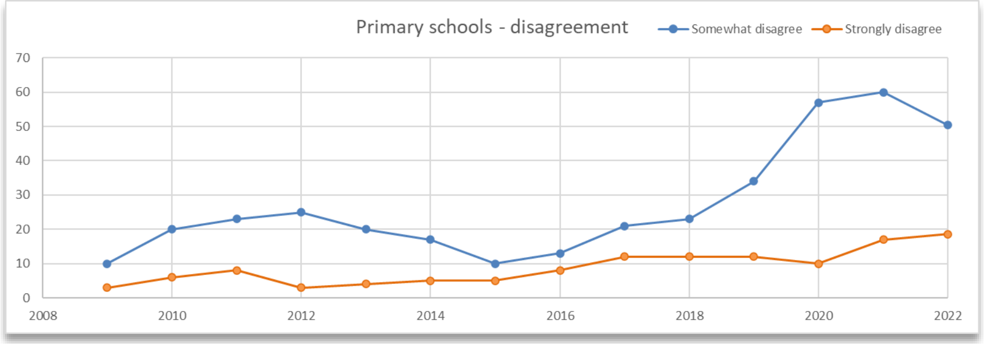


Strongly or somewhat agree

+4% over 2021 **9%**

Q1B - TABLE 1.1.2

Well-equipped with teaching and learning resources?



Strongly or somewhat agree

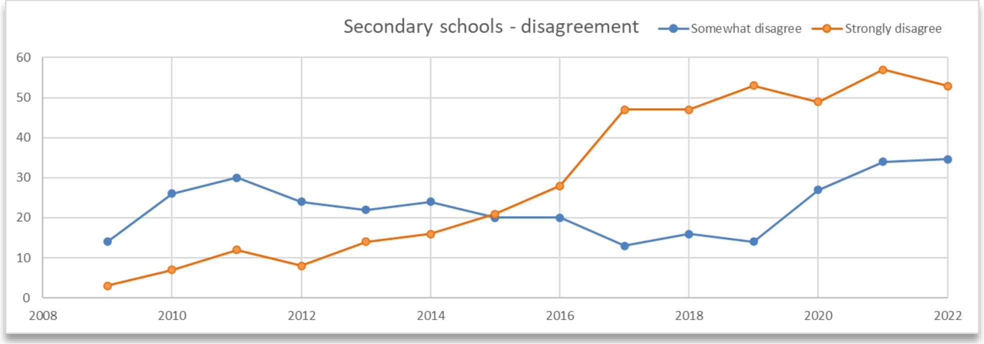
+7% over 2021 **30%**

Primary

Recently there has been a strong upward trend in the proportion of primary schools at least somewhat disagreeing as being well-equipped with teaching and learning resources. However, this year sees some pullback from recent rises, with more than a quarter of primary schools at least not disagreeing with the statement.

Secondary

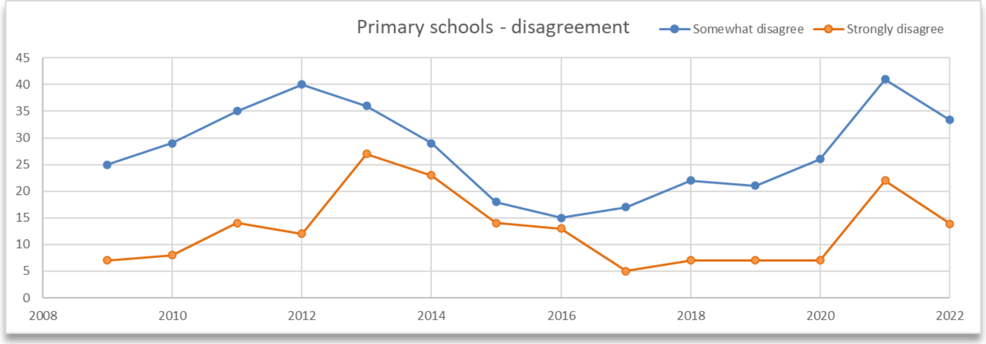
For secondary schools, the concern over funding extends to not being well-equipped with teaching and learning resources. Each year more business managers record strongly disagreeing that they are well equipped. The improvement this year is only marginal.



Strongly or somewhat agree

+3% over 2021 **8%**

Well-equipped with ICT infrastructure and devices?



Primary

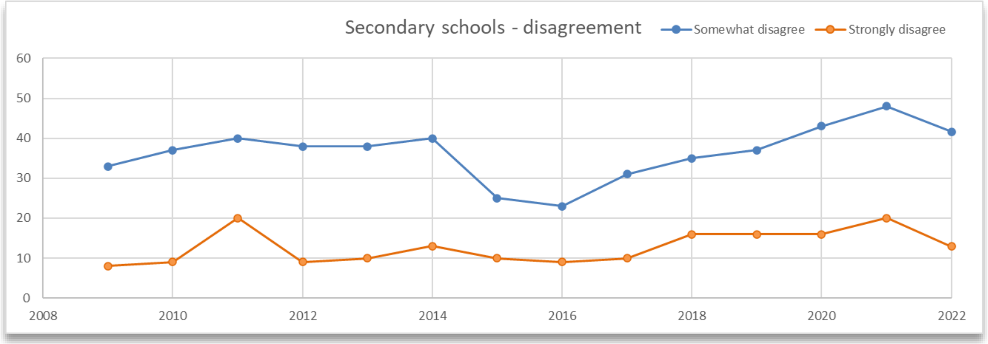
Sufficiency of ICT provision in primary schools had remained relatively stable over time. However, the proportion of primary schools indicating being sufficiently equipped with ICT infrastructure and devices halved in last year's review, while recovering somewhat this year.

Strongly or somewhat agree

+15% over 2021 **42%**

Secondary

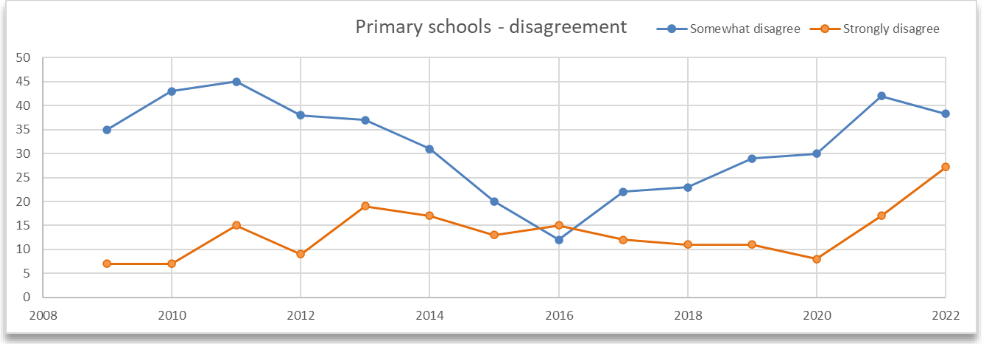
While secondary schools have also recorded an uplift in disagreement with the view that they are well-equipped with ICT infrastructure and devices, the bounce back this year has been less encouraging.



Strongly or somewhat agree

+10% over 2021 **37%**

Well-equipped with furniture and storage?



Strongly or somewhat agree

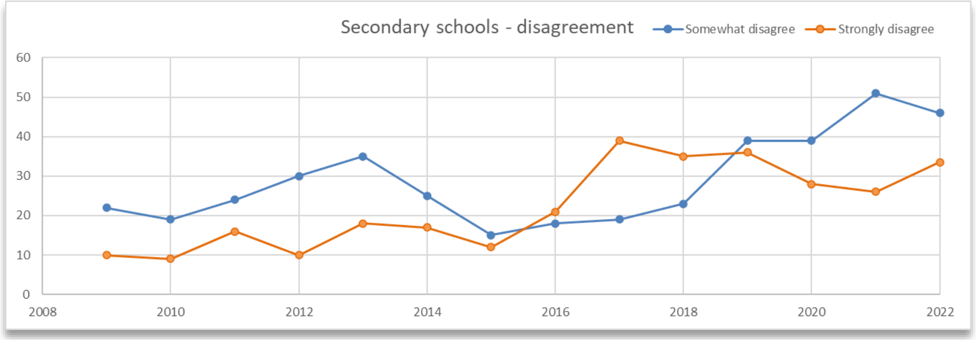
-5% over 2021 **30%**

Primary

Since 2020, primary schools have been less likely to agree with the statement that they are well-equipped with furniture and storage. Two-thirds of business managers now at least somewhat disagree with the statement that they are well equipped.

Secondary

While there was evidence in 2020 and 2021 of a limited improvement in the proportion of secondary schools being well-equipped with furniture and storage, the new data indicates a fall back to previous levels, with a third strongly disagreeing with the statement.



Strongly or somewhat agree

-2% over 2021 **14%**

Curriculum purchasing priorities

NOTE

On each slide you will see a ‘T’ designation, such as ‘T1.3.1’. This notation refers to the table reference in the accompanying spreadsheet to this report. The tabulations provide a complete view of the question, response options and the responses (including between authority schools and academies).

Where are priorities changing for KS1 & KS2 resource spending?

Significant upshift

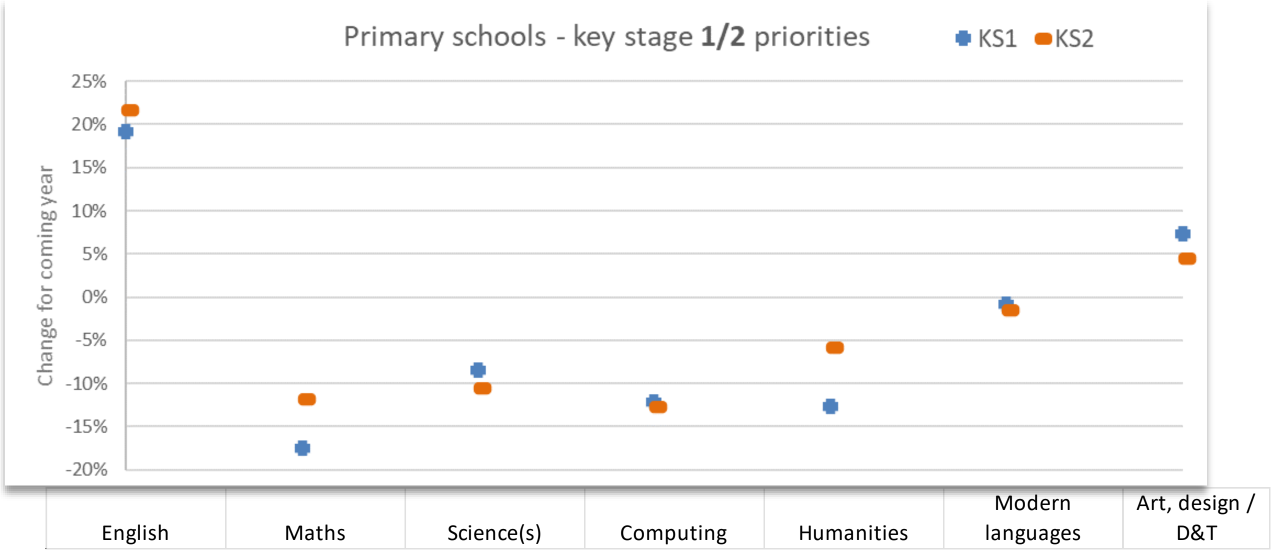
1. English / literacy
2. Art & design

Significant downshift

1. Maths / numeracy
2. Computing

Primary

During 2021, primary schools placed a significant focus on numeracy (especially at KS1). For the coming year, focus is shifting back to English and literacy, with a little more priority being directed towards art & design activities.



Proportion of schools focusing spending on each subject area (multiple response)

Q3A - TABLE 1.3.2

Where are priorities changing for KS3 & KS4 resource spending?

Significant upshift

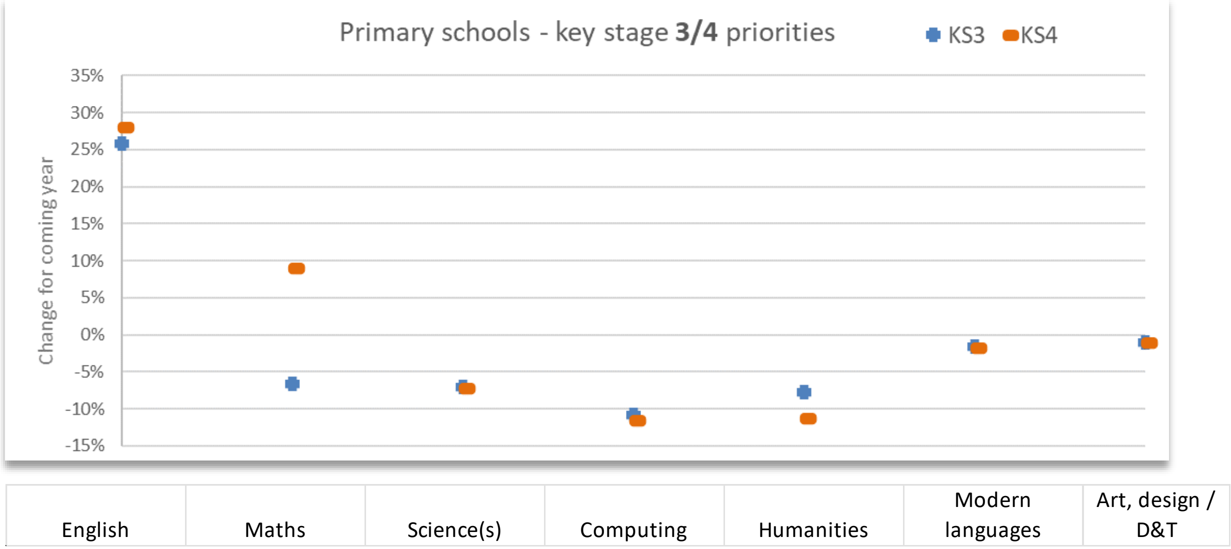
1. English
2. Maths (KS4)

Significant downshift

1. Humanities
2. Computing

Secondary

Like primary schools, the secondary sector is prioritising English more so than in recent years. However, the most significant change comes from the proportion of schools indicating a spending focus on maths. In 2017, fewer than half of secondary schools indicated a spending focus on maths, which has expanded to 81% of schools for the coming year.



Proportion of schools focusing spending on each subject area (multiple response)

Q3A - TABLE 1.3.2

BRITISH EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

School & resources budget setting

BUDGET DEFINITION - Resources

Schools have a legal requirement to set a budget including an allocation for resources. However, the components making up allocations can differ between schools and vary over the year as head teachers gain more insight into other spending commitments, such as employee and premises costs.

BUDGET DEFINITION – effective school budgets

Schools receive funding from a number of grants, as well as, having centralised commitments that are deducted and fundraising activities that are added. This leaves the effective school budget, i.e. the amount of money schools have available in their bank account for expenditure items.

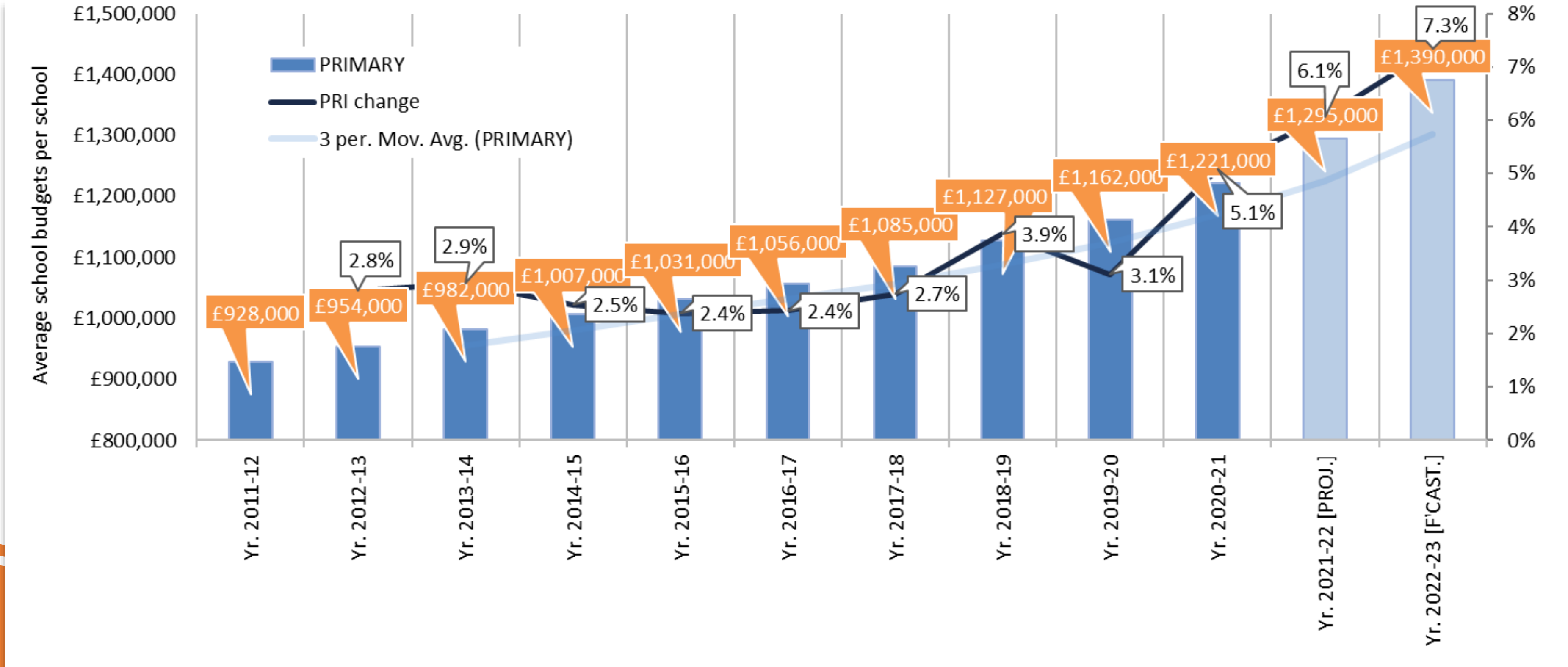
How have school budgets changed?

Increase in cash terms

Since 2011-12
+50%

Primary

School budgets increased by +5% in 2020-21 and again by a similar +6% in 2021-22. There is an expectation of a further rise in cash terms of +7% for 2022-23, which is likely to result in a real terms increase of around +2% to +3%.



Average recurrent budget available in school bank accounts

Q7A - TABLE 2.1.1

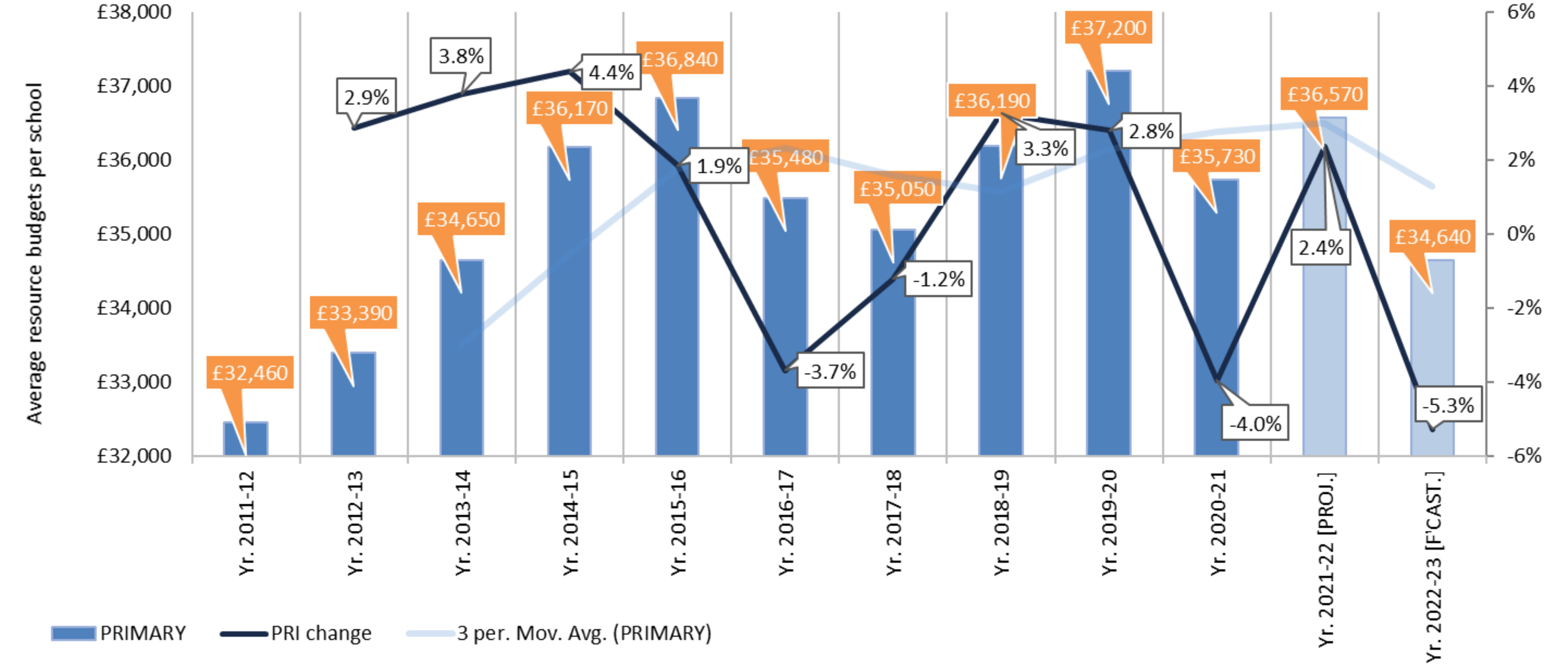
How have resource budgets changed?

Increase in cash terms

Since 2011-12
+7%

Primary

While school budgets are forecast to improve by +50% between 2011-12 and 2022-23, resource budgets across the primary sector have recorded limited positive movement over the same period. The fall recorded in 2020-21 and the forecast contraction for 2022-23 only exacerbate the pressure on resource allocations.



Average recurrent resources budget available in primary school bank accounts

Q7B - TABLE 2.2.1

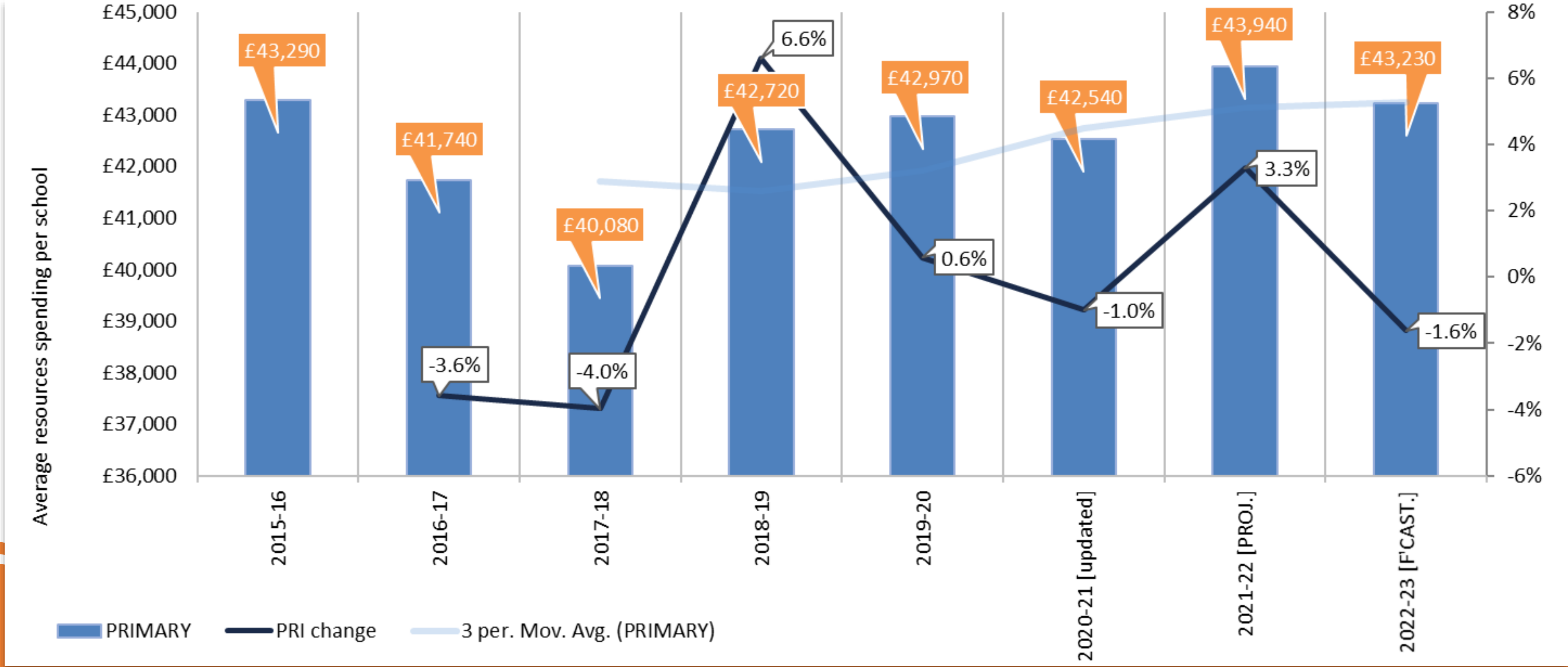
How has resources spending changed?

Increase in cash terms

Since 2015-16
+0%

Primary

The forecast for spending on resources (from recurrent and capital allocations) in 2022-23 is likely to result in spending on the resources identified in this report being very similar in cash terms to what they were in 2015-16.



Average recurrent and capital spending available from school bank accounts in primary schools

Q7-11A - TABLE 2.9.2

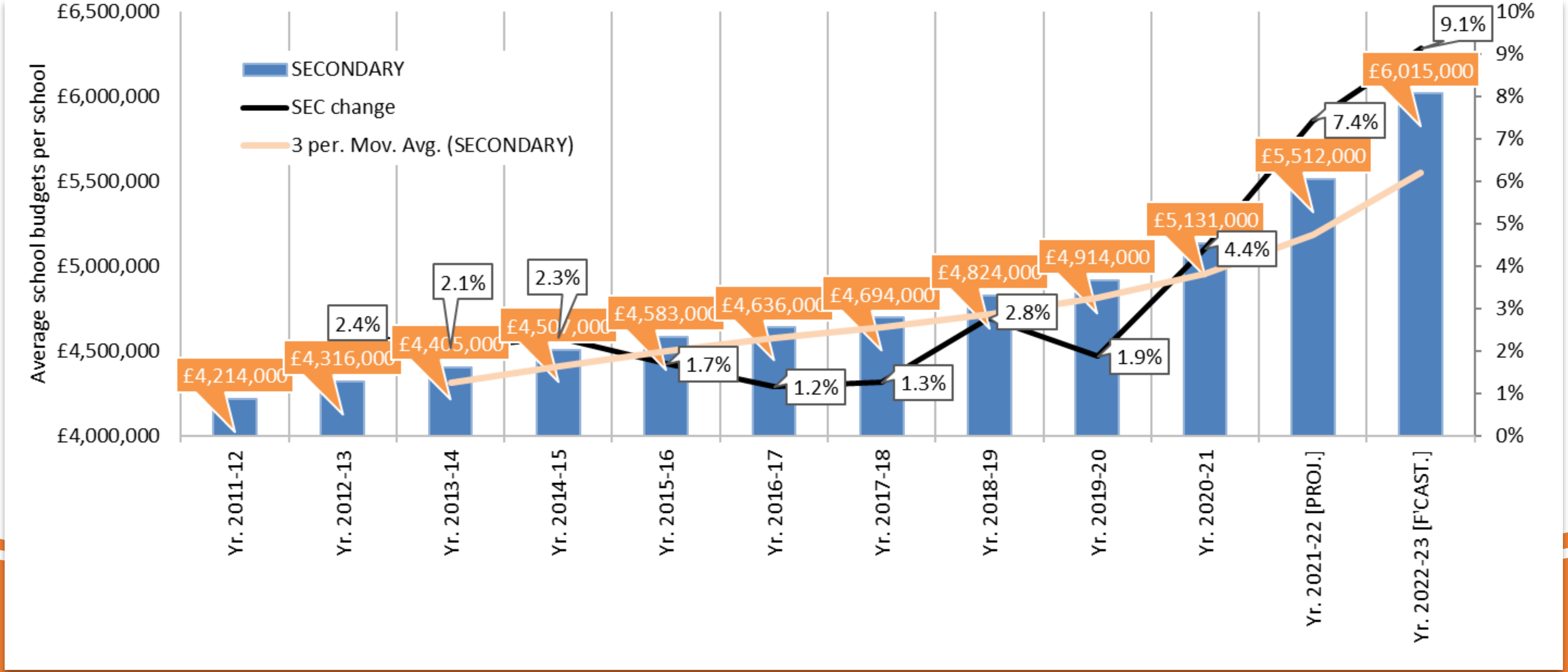
How have school budgets changed?

Increase in cash terms

Since 2011-12
+43%

Secondary

School budgets increased by +4% in 2020-21 and expanded to +7% in 2021-22. There is an expectation of a further rise in cash terms of +9% for 2022-23, which is likely to result in a real terms increase of around +4% to +5%.



Average recurrent budget available in school bank accounts

Q7A - TABLE 2.1.1

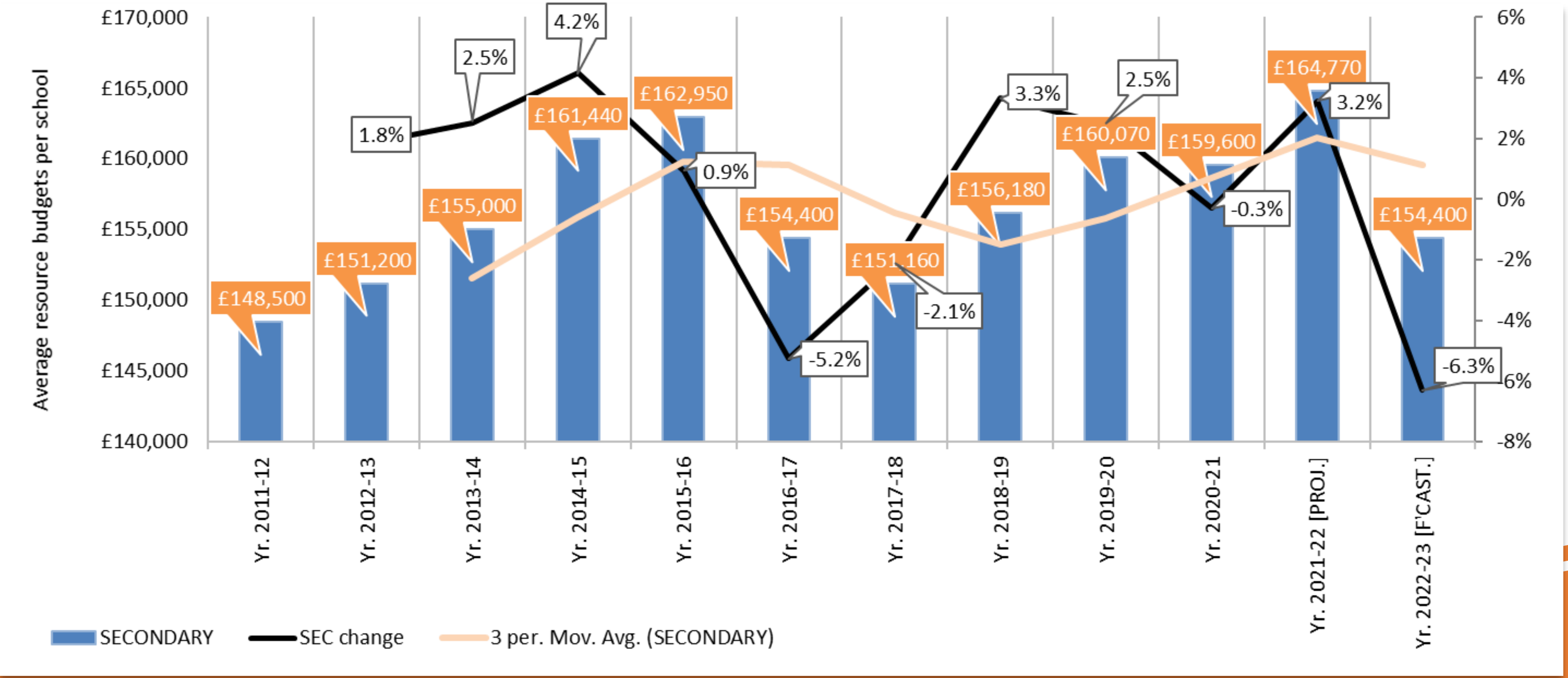
How have resource budgets changed?

Increase in cash terms

Since 2011-12
+4%

Secondary

Resource budget allocations by secondary schools have hardly moved in the last ten years. Although actual expenditure has seen some positive movement, secondary schools are unlikely to allocate higher spending than the previous year, when setting budgets at the beginning of the year.



Average recurrent resources budget available in secondary school bank accounts

Q7B - TABLE 2.2.1

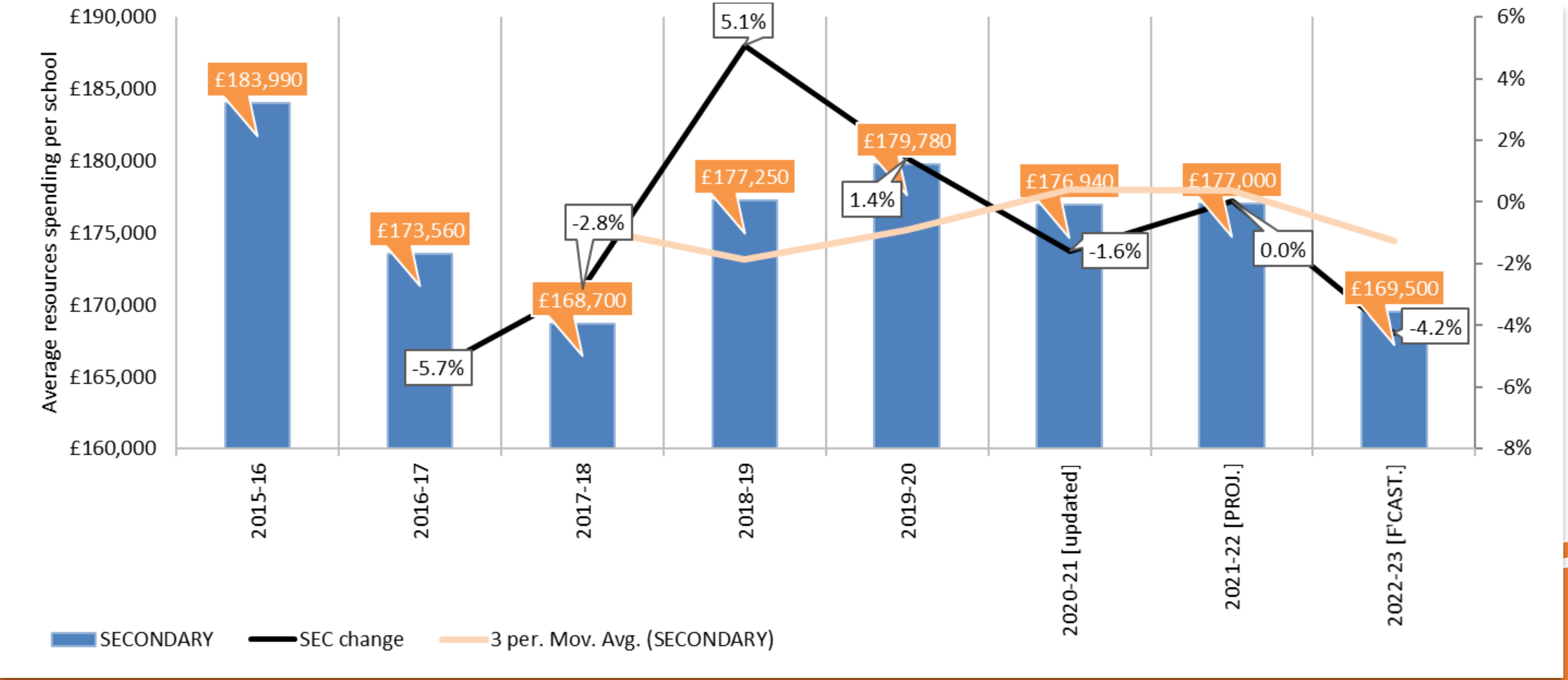
How has resources spending changed?

Increase in cash terms

Since 2015-16
-8%

Secondary

Resources spending across the secondary sector has been under pressure for some time. Although reasonable growth was identified in 2018-19, spending has moved marginally downward, even during the recent period of school disruption. Therefore, spending on resources is likely to be -8% lower in 2022-23 than it was in 2015-16.

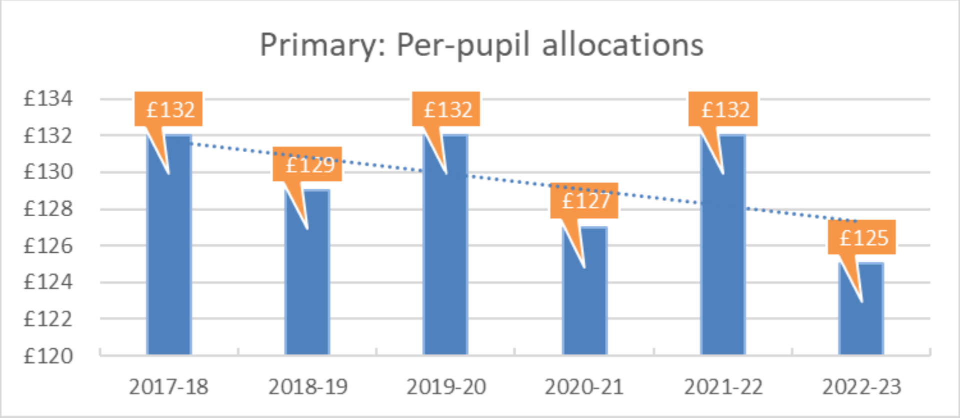


Average recurrent and capital spending available from school bank accounts in secondary schools

Q7-11A - TABLE 2.9.2

How are per-pupil resource allocations changing*?

*based on current expectations and in cash terms



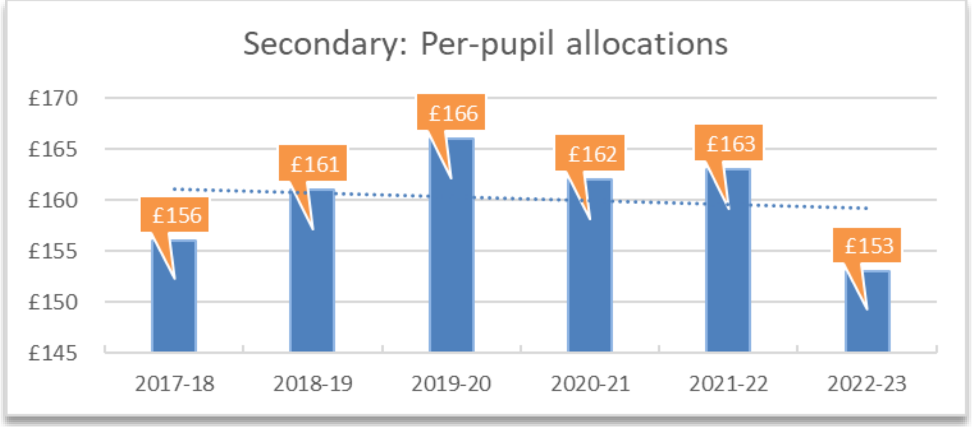
Fall since 2017-18 **-5%**

Primary

Per-pupil resource budget allocations fluctuate even while school budgets expand each year (in cash terms). However, the range is limited, with no year seeing more than £132 per pupil being allocated. The allocation for 2022-23 is particularly constrained.

Secondary

Secondary per-pupil resource allocations look to have peaked in 2019-20, with 2022-23 expected to see cash-terms allocations fall lower than those allocated in 2017-18. Without this expectation of a fall in 2022-23 the trend would have been for allocations to remain relatively flat over time.

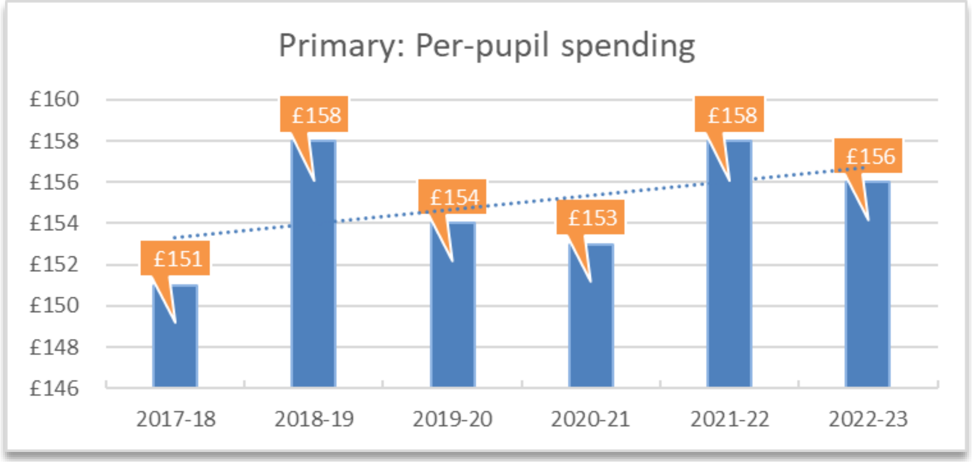


Fall since 2017-18 **-2%**

Q7B - TABLE 2.2.1

How is per-pupil resource spending changing*?

*based on current expectations and in cash terms



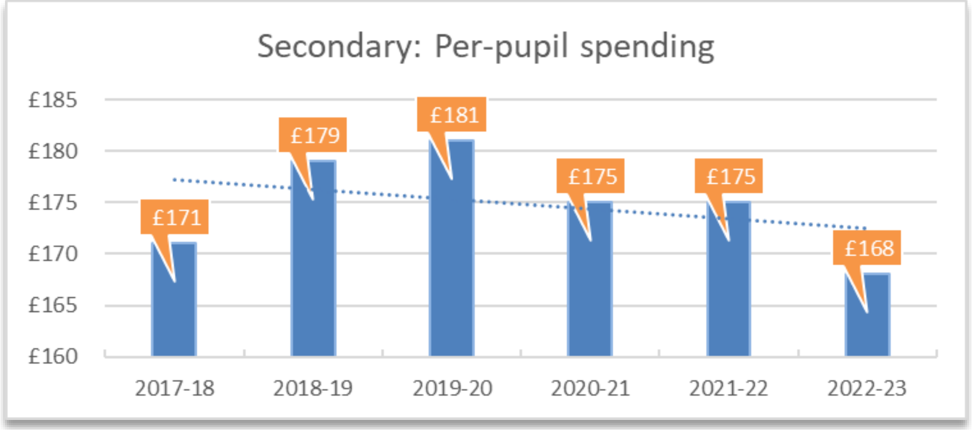
Rise since 2017-18 +3%

Primary

Per-pupil spending has increased a little over the last few years as pupil numbers in the relevant age-range decline. Even so, by 2022-23, the last five years will only see spending expand by +3% in cash terms and represents a significant real terms fall.

Secondary

Spending on resources in 2017-18 was the lowest recorded for some time and even as pupil numbers within the secondary sector grew, pre-pupil spending still expanded. However, during 2020-21 it fell and is forecast to fall again in 2022-23 – leaving spending a little lower than it was in 2017-18 in cash terms, while being significantly lower in real terms.



Fall since 2017-18 -2%

Q7-11A - TABLE 2.9.2

BRITISH EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

Summary of findings

2020-21 dashboard

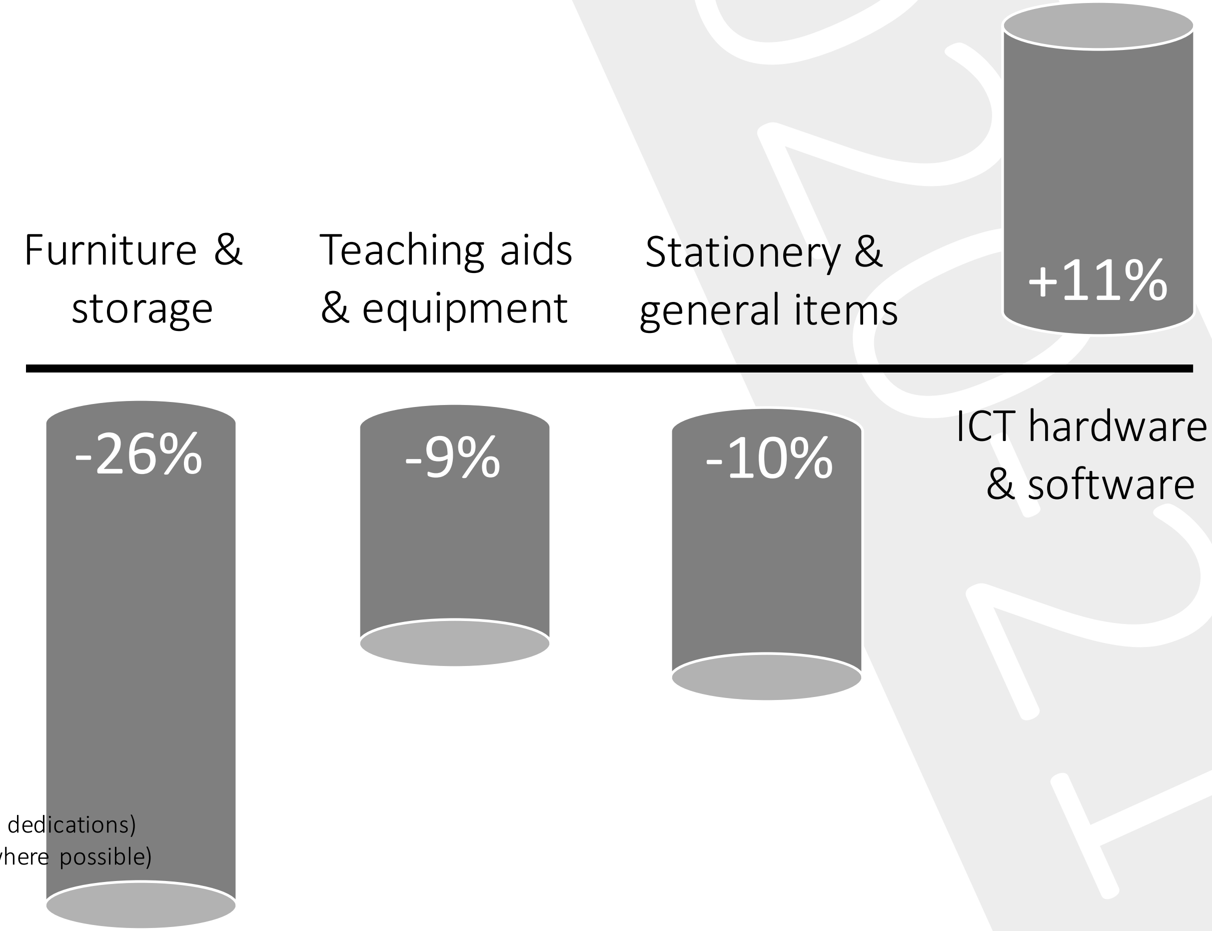
PRIMARY SECTOR

OUTTURN

+5% School budgets[1]

-4% Resource budgets[2]

-1% Resource spending[3,4]



School averages

School budget	£1,221K
Resources budget	£35.7K
Resources spending	£42.5K
Per-pupil resources spending	£151 p.p.

1 Available in individual school bank accounts (excludes LA/MAT dedications)
2 Recurrent budgets set at the beginning of the financial year (where possible)
3 Realised or expected by the end of the year
4 Includes recurrent resource budget and capital allocations

2021-22 dashboard

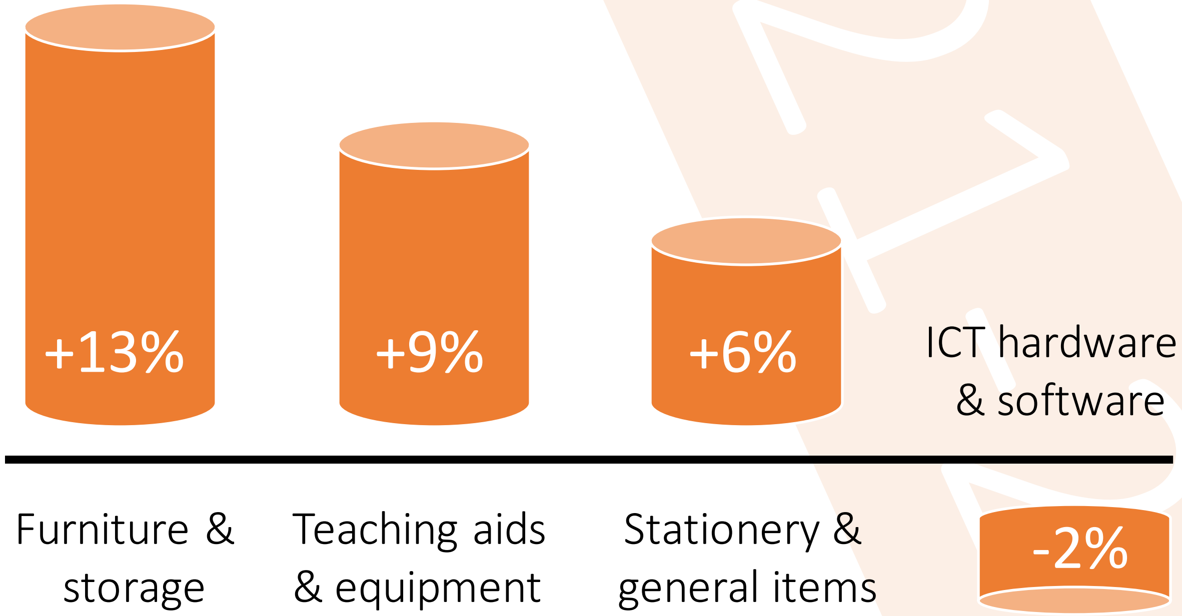
PRIMARY SECTOR

PROJECTION

+6% School budgets[1]

+2% Resource budgets[2]

+3% Resource spending[3,4]



School averages

School budget	£1,295K
Resources budget	£36.6K
Resources spending	£43.9K
Per-pupil resources spending	£158 p.p.

1 Available in individual school bank accounts (excludes LA/MAT dedications)
2 Recurrent budgets set at the beginning of the financial year (where possible)
3 Realised or expected by the end of the year
4 Includes recurrent resource budget and capital allocations

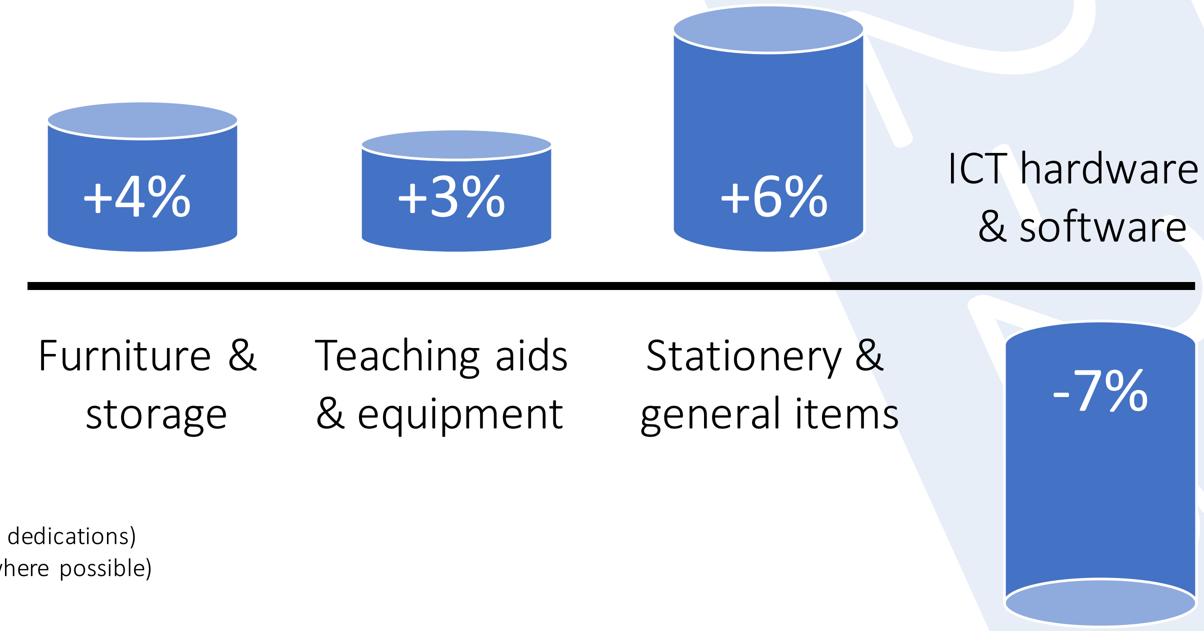
2022-23 dashboard

PRIMARY SECTOR **FORECAST**

+7% School budgets[1]

-5% Resource budgets[2]

-2% Resource spending[3,4]



School averages

School budget	£1,390K
Resources budget	£34.6K
Resources spending	£43.2K
Per-pupil resources spending	£156 p.p.

1 Available in individual school bank accounts (excludes LA/MAT dedications)
2 Recurrent budgets set at the beginning of the financial year (where possible)
3 Realised or expected by the end of the year
4 Includes recurrent resource budget and capital allocations

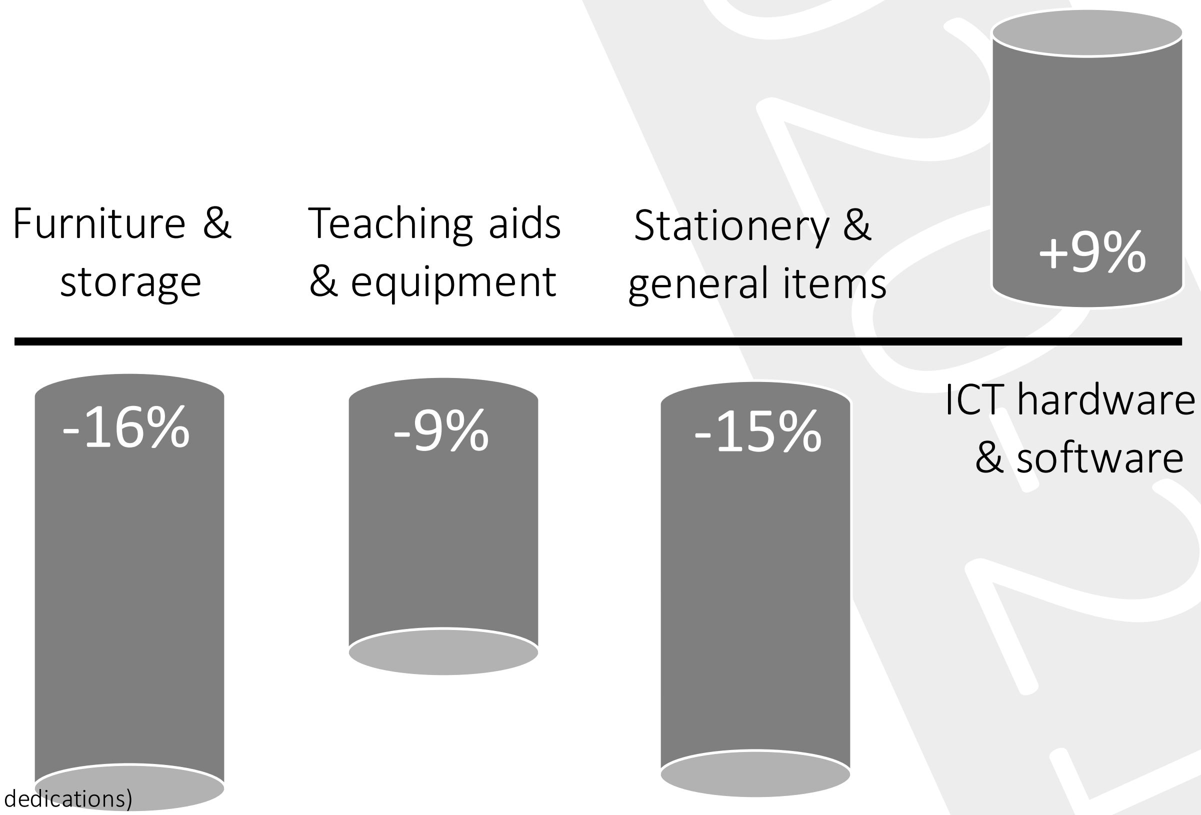
2020-21 dashboard

SECONDARY SECTOR | OUTTURN

+4% School budgets[1]

-0% Resource budgets[2]

-2% Resource spending[3,4]



School averages

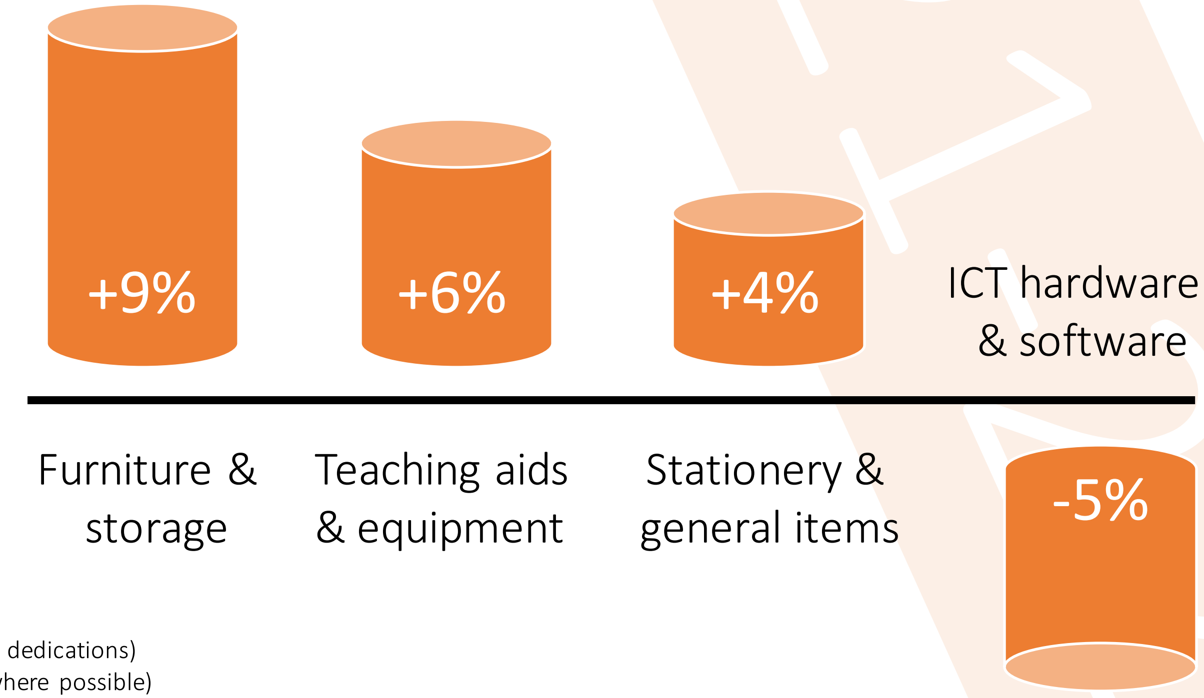
School budget	£5,131K
Resources budget	£159.6K
Resources spending	£176.9K
Per-pupil resources spending	£179 p.p.

1 Available in individual school bank accounts (excludes LA/MAT dedications)
2 Recurrent budgets set at the beginning of the financial year (where possible)
3 Realised or expected by the end of the year
4 Includes recurrent resource budget and capital allocations

2021-22 dashboard

SECONDARY SECTOR PROJECTION

+7%	School budgets[1]
+3%	Resource budgets[2]
+0%	Resource spending[3,4]



School averages

School budget	£5,512K
Resources budget	£164.8K
Resources spending	£177.0K
Per-pupil resources spending	£175 p.p.

1 Available in individual school bank accounts (excludes LA/MAT dedications)
2 Recurrent budgets set at the beginning of the financial year (where possible)
3 Realised or expected by the end of the year
4 Includes recurrent resource budget and capital allocations

2022-23 dashboard

SECONDARY SECTOR | FORECAST

+9% School budgets[1]

-6% Resource budgets[2]

-4% Resource spending[3,4]

Furniture & storage	+6%
ICT hardware & software	+2%
Teaching aids & equipment	-4%
Stationery & general items	-6%

School averages

School budget	£6,015K
Resources budget	£154.4K
Resources spending	£169.5K
Per-pupil resources spending	£168 p.p.

1 Available in individual school bank accounts (excludes LA/MAT dedications)
2 Recurrent budgets set at the beginning of the financial year (where possible)
3 Realised or expected by the end of the year
4 Includes recurrent resource budget and capital allocations

UK Research Series

Research

Authored by
Richard Connor

Our annual review of school and resource budgets for this year and the coming year, with expectations for spending on key resource groups. Analysed from school business managers across over 1200 schools.

Full report & tabulations available for all questions

Members can download all files from the BESA website in the 'Insights' section

BESA
BRITISH EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION

Education Expenditure

Resources in English Maintained Schools – Issue 28

2022 Edition