



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Main Features of Budget 2022 – Education

13 October 2021

Budget 2022 in numbers

€9.2 billion	2022 Budget of the Department of Education – continuing investment in our education system
c1,750	Additional teachers in the education system in 2022 over 2021, including some 980 special education needs teachers
c19,200	Special needs assistants in the education system in 2022, an increase of 1,165 on 2021
30,000	The number of school places that will be provided by 200 large scale and additional accommodation school projects currently at construction stage
€87 million¹	Funding provided specifically to support schools as they continue to operate in a Covid-19 environment
€790 million (2022)	Providing additional capacity to the school system to manage in the Covid environment and to cater for increased demographics with 30,000 extra pupil places.
€50 million (extra in 2021)	

¹ A central contingency reserve is again being allocated in the 2022 Budget by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, which includes additional funds earmarked for schools.

Budgetary overview

	Gross Allocations Budget 2022		Gross Allocations 2021	
	Total Allocations	2022 Covid Allocation	Total Allocations	2021 Covid Allocation
Gross current expenditure	€8,446m	€87m	€8,220m	€309m
Gross capital expenditure	€792m	€0m	€790m*	€0
Total gross allocation	€9,238m	€87m	€9,010m	€309m

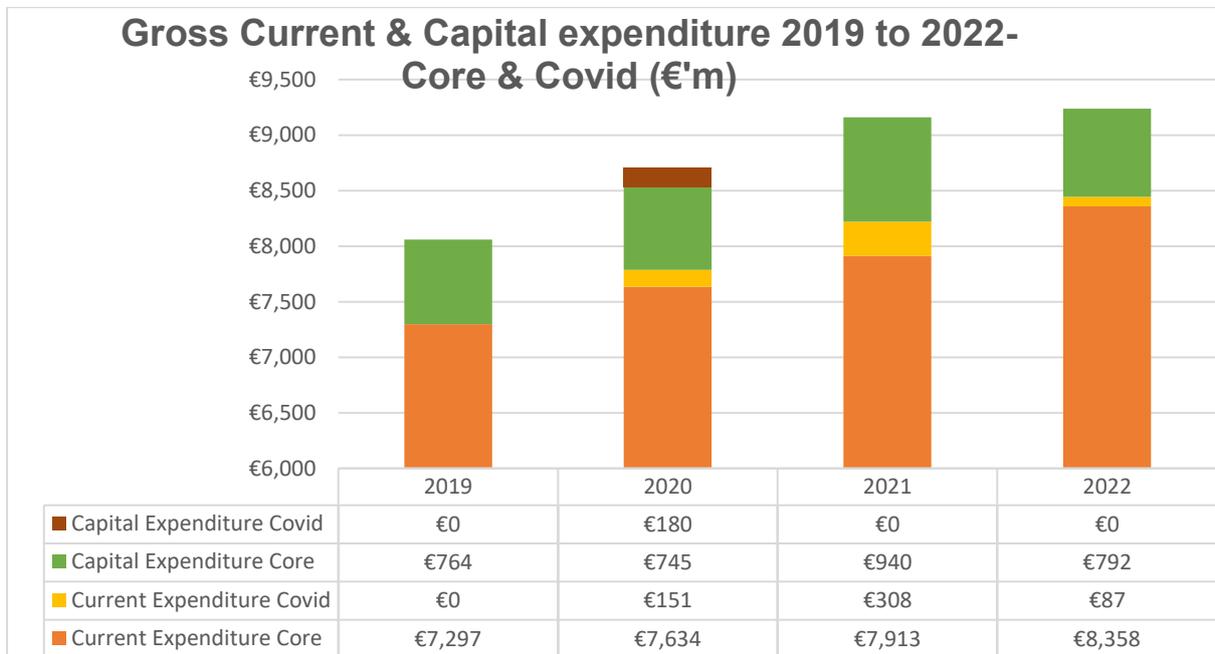
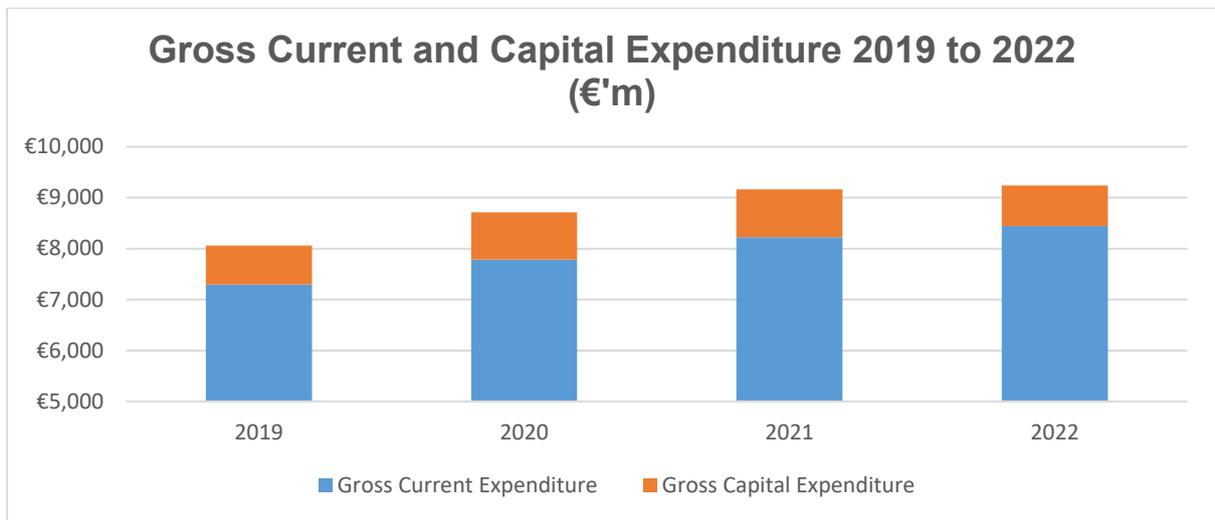
* The 2021 allocation figures include an additional €50m capital expenditure. This amount has been agreed but has not yet been included in this Department's Vote allocation figures within the 2022 Budget/Expenditure Report.

Investment in a progressive and equitable education system

Budget 2022 aims to continue delivering a progressive and equitable education system that has the power to transform lives. It also continues to deliver on the commitments set out in the *Programme for Government – Our Shared Future* in the areas of special education and social inclusion, reducing pupil teacher ratios in primary schools and restoring capitation rates. Funding is included to support schools as they continue to provide educational services to our students against a backdrop of Covid-19.

The 2022 gross core expenditure allocation for the Department of Education will be some €9.2 billion, €0.5 billion (5.8%) above the Department's equivalent 2021 allocation in the *Revised Estimates Volume*². Around €1.2 billion (15%) extra will be allocated to education at school level in 2022 compared to 2019 (see chart below). A supplementary chart below also highlights the additional Covid allocations by current and capital expenditure.

² The Revised Estimates Volume 2021 included €309 million in Covid-related funding. The corresponding figure for 2022 is €87m.



Schools and Special Education

Teacher numbers and demographics

The total number of new teaching posts will be in the region of 1,750 by the end of 2022. Of these posts, 980 additional teachers will be working with children with special educational needs, 420 additional posts will arise following the inclusion of more schools in the DEIS scheme while a further 350 new teaching posts will be created at primary level arising from a further reduction in the staffing schedule – see below.

Staffing schedules in primary schools

As part of continuing measures to sustain and strengthen primary schools and in accordance with a commitment in the *Programme for Government* to make further progress in reducing pupil teacher ratios, the staffing schedule in all primary schools will be improved by one point from September 2022 (estimated at 350 teaching posts). The effect of this change will be to allow primary schools operating the standard staffing schedule to reduce the general average from 25:1 to 24:1, a historically low level. This follows a similar one point reduction in Budget 2021. The staffing schedules in place for DEIS schools will also benefit from the one point reduction.

Continuation of Covid-19 related funding for the remainder of 2021/22 school year

Budget 2022 continues a number of the supports provided to schools since 2020 to meet costs relating to Covid-19 under the *Roadmap for the Reopening of Schools*, with funding of €87m being provided for 2022.

As with other Covid-19 related spending, funding for 2022 will be reviewed in line with the latest public health advice available. In this regard, a central contingency reserve is being allocated in the 2022 Budget by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, which includes additional funds specifically earmarked for schools.

Special Education

Special education is a priority area for investment for this Government and Budget 2022 demonstrates this commitment.

Budget 2022 allocates very significant additional teacher and SNA resources to special education.

Education for children with special educational needs continues to be a priority for investment, and in 2022 in excess of €2 billion in funding will be provided, representing over a quarter of the Department's entire current expenditure budget.

Some 1,165 additional special needs assistants (SNAs) will be allocated, bringing the total numbers to almost 19,200 in 2022. The breakdown of the 1,165 SNA posts is:

- 574 to support students in new special classes
- 46 to support students in new special school places
- 545 to support students in mainstream classes on children.

The 980 new teacher posts are broken down as follows:

- 620 of the new posts will provide additional support for children attending mainstream classes including new and expanding schools.
- 360 posts will facilitate the opening of 287 new special classes providing over 1,700 new places in 2022 and 140 new special school places.

These measures will help ensure that appropriate school placements are provided for children with special educational needs in 2022/23.

The additional burden on principals of some special schools and mainstream schools who open special classes can be very significant. These settings involve a lot of planning, management and engagement with teachers, SNAs, bus escorts and other professionals working with the students and their parents.

There are currently 36 schools with a teaching principal that have 2 or more special classes in 2021/22 along with 4 special schools with teaching principals. The provision of an administrative principal position in these 40 schools will increase the management supports available in those schools in a very significant way.

Social Inclusion

An additional annual allocation to the DEIS programme of €18 million (€32 million full year) is provided for in Budget 2022. This will enable an expansion in 2022 of the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme. This programme provides additional teaching and other support resources to schools.

Together with a further one point improvement in the staffing schedule for DEIS Urban Band 1 schools this creates the largest ever education package to tackle educational disadvantage. This represents an increase of over 20 per cent in funding for the DEIS programme over the years 2022 and 2023.

Schools and children benefitting from the DEIS programme are eligible for a range of supports aimed at tackling educational disadvantage, including additional classroom teaching posts, Home School Community Liaison coordinator posts, DEIS grant funding and access to the School Completion Programme.

Funding Arrangements for Post-Primary Schools

The Budget provides that voluntary secondary schools in the free education scheme will see capitation funding increased as a result of the elimination of the school salary grant deduction from the capitation payable to schools in this sector. This rectifies a historical inconsistency in the capitation funding arrangements of post-primary schools in the free education scheme.

Guidance Supports and Release Days

Additional guidance teacher supports and release days for school leaders will be maintained.

School Transport

€30 million will be allocated to increase investment in the school transport scheme.

Ex-Gratia Scheme Implementing the ECtHR Judgement in O’Keeffe v Ireland

Budget 2022 provides for an allocation of €21m for an ex gratia scheme to implement the European Court of Human Rights Judgement in *O’Keeffe v Ireland*. The overall estimated payment under this scheme is €31m with the majority expected to be paid out during 2022.

Pay and Pensions in the school sector

Building Momentum: A new Public Service Pay Agreement 2021/2022

Arising out of *Building Momentum*, €136 million in expenditure funding has been allocated to provide for amendments to pay and pension rates for existing and retired teaching and other staff in our schools and other public servants.

On 1 October 2021 annualised salaries increased by one per cent. The equivalent of a 1 one per cent increase in annualised basic salaries to be used as a Sectoral Bargaining Fund, will be payable on 1 February 2022. A general round increase of one per cent will be payable on 1 October 2022.

Payroll and pensions funding generally

Budget 2022 includes allocations amounting to €133 million to meet ongoing pay and related requirements, including the extra school staff recruited in response to demographic changes with growing numbers of children and students attending our schools. This allocation also reflects the costs associated with the new teacher and SNA posts referred to above.

An additional allocation of €36 million is being provided to meet growing superannuation requirements.

Capital investment

2022 Capital allocation

Under Project Ireland 2040, the education sector will receive a total of approximately €4.4 billion capital investment over the period 2021-2026. This significant investment allows us to move forward with certainty on our ambitious plans and deliver high quality building projects, with a real focus on sustainability, for school communities across Ireland.

The 2022 capital allocation for the Department under Project Ireland 2040 is €792 million. This funding will facilitate the Department to continue with a strong rollout of school building projects to add capacity and support the operation of the school system.

It will facilitate the continued progression of the circa. 200 school building projects currently at construction - most of which are scheduled for completion in 2022. In total, projects at construction will, when completed, deliver over 30,000 school places (new and replacement).

An additional €50m allocation of capital funding in 2021, as part of Budget 2022 negotiations, provides additional flexibility in the Department's budget for 2022 to enable (a) once-off funding of €20m to be provided to schools for the purchasing of books, audio books and other media for the purposes of improving their existing literacy resource banks (see below) and (b) the balance of €30m for an enhanced rollout of projects under the 2022 summer works scheme. This additional funding of €30m (on top of the standard €35m programme) will facilitate an overall €65m programme of works for the 2022 Summer Works Scheme. The details on these projects will be announced in early December 2021 to provide schools with a good lead-in period for delivering the projects in summer 2022.

Literacy Resources

As noted above, Budget 2022 includes a once-off capital allocation of €20m to schools for the purchase of books, audio books and other media for the purposes of improving their existing literacy resource banks. This funding is additional to that already given for the school books rental scheme.

The allocation recognises the importance of books in the lives of children and the need to ensure that we provide access to the highest quality books in all our schools in order to allow our learners to develop their language and literacy skills.

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