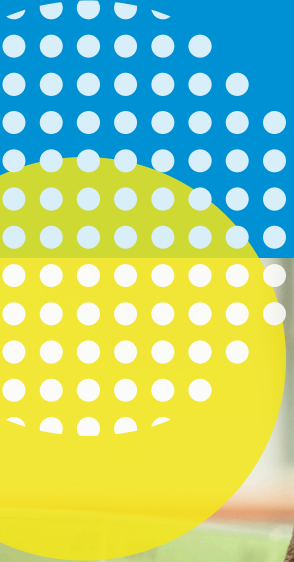




An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

A guide for parents

Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme



Introduction

Buying schoolbooks and classroom resources can be a costly expense for parents/guardians. In 2024 schools were provided with funding to buy schoolbooks and core classroom resources for students in Junior Cycle. From 2025 the Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme will provide funding to schools to buy items for all students up to Senior Cycle.

This leaflet will explain how the scheme is run and provides answers to some frequently asked questions.

The Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme

The Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme is a scheme where the Department of Education provides funding to post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme to purchase schoolbooks and core classroom resources.

The scheme is run as a textbook rental scheme where schoolbooks and resources are provided on loan to students at the start of the school year.

This means that parents of post-primary students will not pay towards the cost of schoolbooks, including the cost of core classroom resources.

How the scheme operates

The school will make arrangements to provide your child(ren) with the textbooks and resources covered by the scheme. It is important that your child looks after the books carefully because they belong to the school.

At the end of the school year (or at the end of the programme they are studying), your child returns the textbooks to the school in good condition. They must also be returned if your child leaves the school. If you paid a deposit, this is given back to you.

What the scheme covers

Schoolbooks are textbooks (including ebooks) and workbooks used by students in schools. It also includes novels, plays and provision of past examination papers.

Core classroom resources are covered under the scheme. The list items are outlined in Appendix 1 of the guidance for schools. Schools can substitute items on this list but must provide parents with information on what will and will not be given to students.

Full details are available at www.gov.ie/schoolbookschemes

How parents/guardians can support the scheme

Parents/guardians should remind students that the schoolbooks are on loan from the school.

Students need to take good care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition during the year so that they can be re-used in future years.





Key Information

How to take part in the scheme

Parents/Guardians do not have to make an application for this funding. Funding is paid directly to schools.

Items covered by the scheme

All schoolbooks – this includes all textbooks, including ebooks, and workbooks decided by schools as necessary for each subject. It also includes past examination papers for all subjects as necessary.

Core classroom resources will also be provided by your school. A list of these are in Appendix A of the guidance at gov.ie - Schoolbooks Scheme Information Hub

Other classroom resources covered

If schools have funding remaining after all schoolbooks and core classroom resources are provided, the school may provide additional classroom resources that parents were previously either asked to provide or charged for.

Schools can charge a refundable deposit

Schools can charge a refundable deposit which is limited to €50. The school must provide a list of items that are covered by the deposit and will need to be returned.

Replacement of lost or damaged books

The issue of replacement of lost or damaged books is a matter for each school to decide.

Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate mock examinations are not covered by the scheme

The grant does not provide funding towards the cost of mock examinations.

Certain Transition Year costs are covered by the scheme

Schools are required under the scheme to provide any books and core classroom resources required by students in Transition Year (TY).

Other costs associated with Transition Year are not covered, for example, the cost of a TY trip.



Key Information

Use of second-hand books in the scheme

Schools are permitted to purchase second-hand books under the scheme. If you wish to provide second-hand schoolbooks to your school, you can contact them directly.

Items for which schools can charge

Schools cannot charge you for schoolbooks or core classroom resources that are covered under the scheme. Schools will provide you with a list of these items at the start of the year.

The school can request a charge for additional classroom resources not covered under the scheme.

How to raise a query with the school

The board of management/ETB is responsible for the running of the scheme in the school. If you have any concerns or queries you should contact your child's school directly.

If you are not satisfied with the response provided by the school, the school may have a formal complaints process in which case this should be followed in pursuing any complaint.

Further information is available on gov.ie: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/parental-complaints/>

