

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme for the 2025/26 school year.

For the 2025/26 school year all students in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme will receive free schoolbooks and core classroom resources. These will be in place in time for the start of the new school year.

This scheme is being implemented by Minister for Education Helen McEntee TD. It is in recognition of the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to school. The cost of providing schoolbooks and core classroom resources will now be borne by the State. The scheme will ensure equity of access, where all children and young people enrolled in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme can commence the new school year in 2025/26 with the same schoolbooks and classroom resources as other children and young people in their class.

“Schoolbooks” includes all relevant schoolbooks, including ebooks for all programmes at both Junior and Senior Cycle, including Transition Year. It covers workbooks in use in the school to support teaching and subject learning. It also includes necessary additional texts such as novels and plays for English and where required, books of past examination papers for all subjects.

Funding for the scheme in 2025/26 is being provided directly to post-primary schools by the Department of Education. Schools now have responsibility for providing schoolbooks and core classroom resources to all students at the start of the 2025/26 school year.

Where parents/guardians of second and third year, sixth year and LCA2 students currently own their schoolbooks or were provided with schoolbooks under the Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme in 2024/25 these are to be used,

Parents/Guardians of students commencing second, third, sixth year and LCA2 may already have purchased, or under the Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme students were provided with, a significant amount of the schoolbooks and classroom resources required. Any additional schoolbooks and core classroom resources required by students in these years will now be covered under the scheme.

All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years (where applicable).

Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to students for the duration of the 2025/26 school year and must be returned to school at the end of the school year/at the end of the programme cycle (3 years for Junior Cycle, 1 year for Transition Year, 2 years for Senior Cycle)

Please remind your children to take care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition during the period that they are in their possession. It is not permitted to write on schoolbooks. The school is under no obligation to replace an item that has been lost or damaged by a student.

There may be some additional classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme.