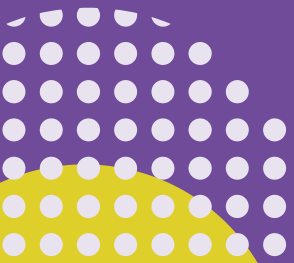




An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Óige  
Department of Education  
and Youth

# A guide for parents

## Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme 2026/27



# Introduction

Buying schoolbooks and classroom resources can be a costly expense for parents/guardians. For the past two years schools have been provided with funding to buy schoolbooks and core classroom resources for students in post-primary schools.

This leaflet explains how the Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme is run and provides answers to some frequently asked questions.

## The Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme

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

Under the scheme, schools buy books in bulk and they own the schoolbooks. The school then provides each student with all their schoolbooks on loan at the start of the school year. The school also provides the students with certain other classroom resources. 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 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. Students are permitted to bring schoolbooks and resources home to complete homework and so that you can stay connected with your child's education.

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.

If the school uses a school journal, it must be provided under this scheme.

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 [gov.ie/schoolbookschemes](http://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

## 1. 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.

## 2. 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](http://gov.ie - Schoolbooks Scheme Information Hub)

## 3. Other classroom resources covered

If schools have funding remaining after all schoolbooks and core classroom resources are provided, the school can choose to provide additional classroom resources that parents previously purchased.

## 4. 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.

## 5. Replacement of lost or damaged books

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

## 6. Items not covered by the scheme

The following items are not covered by the scheme:

- Mock examinations
- Aptitude tests
- Swimming lessons and other school-based activities, for example, Young Scientist, other competitions.
- Cost associated with school trips and Transition Year trips
- Insurance
- Digital devices
- Items that are funded under another grant (Assistive Technology grant, ICT grant)



# Key Information

## 7. 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.

## 8. 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.

Schools can request a charge for direct costs (photocopying, other additional classroom resources) and optional extras (like trips or extracurricular activities). These are items that are not provided under the schoolbooks scheme (see point 6). Voluntary contributions can be requested by a school but cannot be mandatory and cannot stop the school from providing your child with schoolbooks and core classroom resources.

## 9. 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 the gov.ie webpage: [gov.ie/en/policy-information/parental-complaints/](https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/parental-complaints/)

## 10. Feedback on your experience of the scheme

The department welcomes feedback on parents' experience of the scheme.

Each year a consultation survey is issued by the department to schools to share with parents. Parents can then complete the survey to share feedback on their experience of the scheme. A link to this survey will also be uploaded to the [Schoolbooks Scheme Information Hub](#) when the survey is open.

Alternatively, email your feedback to [postprimarieschoolbooks@education.gov.ie](mailto:postprimarieschoolbooks@education.gov.ie)

