



6 March 2024

Schoolbooks for Junior Cycle students in Post-Primary Schools 2024/25

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Government has approved a new schoolbooks scheme for all students in Junior Cycle years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme in Ireland from September 2024.

Funding is being made available from the Department of Education to every school to enable this to happen.

- Schoolbooks and core classroom resources will be provided to all children and young people enrolled in Junior Cycle years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme.
- This means that the cost of schoolbooks and core classroom resources will be eliminated for their families and will ease the financial burden facing families at back to school time.

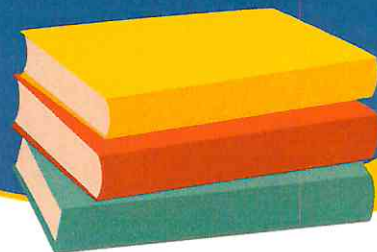
Through this measure, we are enhancing equity of access, where all children and young people enrolled in Junior Cycle years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme can commence the new school year in 2024/25 with the same schoolbooks and classroom resources as other children and young people in their class.

It is important to note that schools have been advised to provide all schoolbooks and core classroom resources from the funding available. This includes copybooks, hardback notebooks, school journals, plastic folders, maths formulae and tables/log books, calculators. It can also include novels and plays, lab copybooks for science subjects, music copybooks or accounting ledger books.

My Department has published an information leaflet for parents/guardians on how the new scheme will operate. The scheme guidance and parents' leaflet is published at www.gov.ie/schoolbooksschemes Should you have any query in relation to this new scheme please email: jcschoolbooks@education.gov.ie



Norma Foley TD
Minister for Education



New Government scheme for 2024/25 school year

Free schoolbooks for all post-primary Junior Cycle students Information for parents/guardians

The Government has introduced a new scheme from the start of the new school year 2024/25. Under this scheme all schoolbooks and core classroom resources for students in Junior Cycle years in post-primary schools will be provided to students directly by their school. There is no charge to parents/guardians for this, as schools will receive funding from Government to cover these costs. Guidance has issued to schools on the scheme and is available at gov.ie/schoolbookschemes.

- Schoolbooks will be provided free to every student on loan at the start of the school year. Core classroom resources will also be provided free to students by the school.
- Schools must communicate with parents and guardians about this new scheme and identify any additional classroom resources that are **not** provided to students under the scheme and the reason for this. The communication from the school will inform parents if need to buy these items or pay a fee to the school for supply of the item.
- Funding under this scheme will not include the purchase of digital devices.
- The schoolbooks will be **on loan** to the students and must be returned at the end of the school year or at the end of Junior Cycle (as decided by the school) or if the student leaves the school.
- It is important that schoolbooks are kept in good condition so they can be reused. Please help make sure that your children keep the schoolbooks safe and in good condition so that they can be used again by another child.

In Budget 2024 the Government provided over €68 million to extend the free schoolbooks scheme to eliminate the cost of schoolbooks for students in Junior Cycle years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme.

gov.ie/SchoolBookSchemes



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education