

Scoil Mhuire na nGrást,
Béal Guala,
Co. Chorcaí.



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Minister for Education Norma Foley T.D. has announced funding to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks, from September 2023. This scheme is aimed at assisting families with the cost of providing such resources. Funding is being provided directly to primary schools and special schools by the Department to implement the scheme and schools will make provision for schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for all children at the start of the school year.

The school wishes to acknowledge the practical support provided by the Parents' Association and 'Friends' of the P.A. over the years with the many practical arrangements associated with operating the school's, heretofore, successful *Book Rental Scheme (BRS)*. Similarly, it is envisaged that such support will be necessary with related logistical arrangements pertaining to this new programme. In addition, the school is also very grateful to pupils, families and staff for the care and consideration taken with the many schoolbook materials provided under the school's current *BRS*. The school now welcomes this new plan and looks forward to everyone's continued cooperation.

Regarding this new initiative, just to note some related details:

- All schoolbooks will remain the property of the school so that books can be reused in future years
- Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to the pupils for the duration of the 2023/2024 school year and must be returned to school at the end of the school year
- Parents/Guardians are requested to remind their children to take care of their books and keep them in good condition during the year. It is not permitted to write on textbooks
- There will be some classroom resources and requisites (i.e. pens, pencils, mathematical sets, tin whistle etc..) that are not covered by the scheme. Additional details on what items parents will need to supply for the return to school on 30 August 2023 will be communicated to parents by the school in due course

The Department of Education's *Free Schoolbooks for all Primary School Pupils – Information for Parents/Guardians* (attached) provides further information.

Is sinne, le meas

Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta

Príomhoide