



Lisnagry National School Book Scheme

Aims:

- To provide textbooks, workbooks and copies to the pupils of Lisnagry National School.
- To ensure, as far as possible, that all pupils will have access to all necessary school textbooks, workbooks and copies from the beginning of the school year.

Background:

As part of Budget 2023, it was announced that primary school children would be provided with all necessary textbooks and workbooks free of charge from September 2023. This Free School Book Scheme is to be built on the existing Book Rental Scheme in the school, which formally came into being at Lisnagry National School during the school year 2015 – 2016. The Free School Book Scheme is to provide a grant of €96 per pupil in order to cover the cost of textbooks, workbooks and copies.

Administration of the Scheme:

The Free School Book Scheme will be administered by a committee consisting of the Principal, school secretary and members of staff under the guidance of the Book Scheme Coordinator. This committee, in conjunction with the Book Scheme Coordinator, will make decisions regarding the Free School Book Scheme on an ongoing basis.

Membership of the Scheme:

Membership of the Free School Book Scheme is open to all pupils attending Lisnagry National School. No deposit or payment will be required to join the Scheme.

Operation of the Scheme:

Book lists, copy lists and stationery lists will be provided by class streams to the Book Scheme Coordinator in Term 3 of each year. After they have been approved by the Principal, the Book Scheme Coordinator will organise and place orders for any required textbooks, workbooks and copies, subject to funds available. Stationery lists will be given to parents before the summer holidays commence. Textbooks, workbooks and copies will be distributed to the relevant classes and given to the pupils on the first day of each school year and at different times during the school year if required. Textbooks will be collected from the pupils in June and will be checked for damage. All textbooks will remain the property of Lisnagry National School, but pupils may keep workbooks and copies that have been written into. Textbooks will be stored over the summer holidays in the relevant classrooms.

Provisions under the Free School Book Scheme:

The Free School Book Grant will cover the provision of all required textbooks, workbooks and copies to all pupils in Lisnagry National School. Funds may also be used for online and digital resources if they replace books. Additionally, any remaining funds may be retained by the school in order to replace textbooks in the following year. An account of expenditure will be forwarded to the Department of Education annually.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs:

Pupils who are operating on a differentiated or alternative programme will be catered for under the terms of the Free School Book Scheme.

Ownership of the Books:

Textbooks, workbooks and copies provided under the Free School Book Scheme will remain at all times the property of Lisnagry National School and may be subject to inspection at any time by a member of school staff.

Changing Textbooks and/or Workbooks Currently in Use:

The replacement of textbooks that are currently in use in the school with a new scheme is a costly exercise. Therefore, all changes must be approved by the Principal, and class teachers must agree to use new textbooks for a minimum of five years. Substituting workbooks currently in use in the school must also be approved by the Principal. No class stream shall be allowed to include additional workbooks on their book list without the prior approval of the Principal.

Payments from Parents/Guardians:

The Free School Book Grant will cover the following:

- Textbooks
- Workbooks
- Copies

Parents/Guardians **will not** be asked to buy textbooks, workbooks or copies, or to make a contribution to the school towards the cost of these.

Opting Out of the Free School Book Scheme:

There is no requirement on the part of parents/guardians to take part in the Free School Book Scheme. If parents/guardians do not wish to avail of the Scheme, they will be provided with a book list and can make their own arrangements regarding the purchase of textbooks, workbooks and copies. The school is not obliged to refund the parents/guardians the cost of such purchases.

Leaving Lisnagry National School Mid-Year:

If a pupil leaves Lisnagry National School during the school year, all books and any related classroom resources the pupil has been using are to be returned to the class teacher before he/she departs.

This document was ratified by the Board of Management of Lisnagry National School at a meeting on:

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal

This Policy will be reviewed annually. The next review will take place in April 2024.