

Free School Books Scheme

20/06/2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well. The following information will hopefully afford you a more in-depth knowledge of how the new Free School Books Scheme (**Junior Cycle only**) will work for the academic year 2024/2025 in Coláiste Iósaef and should be read along with our school policy on same.

This scheme was introduced by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD. It is in recognition of the cost of preparing students for the return to school. While it is very welcome, unfortunately it does not apply to TY and Senior Cycle students. Senior Cycle students can still avail of the book scheme at a cost of €120 per year. Details for this were communicated previously and the link is available on Way2Pay. The deadline for full payment of this scheme is **Friday 28th June 2024**.

The new Free School Books Scheme (**Junior Cycle only**) includes all relevant schoolbooks, including eBooks. It also covers workbooks in use in the school to support teaching and subject learning at Junior Cycle. It includes necessary additional texts such as novels and plays for English or books of past Junior Cycle examination papers for all subjects. Funding for the scheme in 2024/25 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 Junior Cycle students at the start of the school year. The funding is provided on a yearly basis and it is unknown if it will be provided next year.

The table below outlines what will be provided to students in CIK as part of this scheme.

| 2024/2025 | First Year | Second Year | Third Year |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Textbooks | All textbooks, workbooks and novels will be provided to the students. | Student retains books and classroom resources from previous year. All additional/extra textbooks, workbooks and novels will be provided to the students. | Student retains books and classroom resources from previous year. All additional/extra textbooks, workbooks and novels will be provided to the students. Exam papers provided to students in all exam subjects. |

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| Classroom Resources | <p>The following to be provided:</p> <p>CIK School Journal</p> <p>Softback & Hardback Copies Project Maths Graph Copy Book Casio FX-83GT CW Calculator Math Formulae & Tables Book Pad of Graph Paper Maths Geometry Set 30cm Shatterproof Ruler A3 Plastic Zip Folder/Wallet A4 Plastic Zip Folder/Wallet Colouring Pencils High Lighters, Pencil & Pens</p> <p>Please note that after students select their option subjects, further core resources may be provided as budget allows – Art Kit, DCG Kit, Dictionary (Irish/French/Spanish)</p> | <p>The following to be provided:</p> <p>CIK School Journal</p> <p>Softback & Hardback Copies Project Maths Graph Copy Book Math Formulae & Tables Book Pad of Graph Paper A3 Plastic Zip Folder/Wallet A4 Plastic Zip Folder/Wallet</p> <p>Subject specific resources will also be provided where required.</p> | <p>The following to be provided:</p> <p>CIK School Journal</p> <p>Softback & Hardback Copies Project Maths Graph Copy Book Math Formulae & Tables Book Pad of Graph Paper A3 Plastic Zip Folder/Wallet A4 Plastic Zip Folder/Wallet</p> <p>Subject specific resources will also be provided where required.</p> |
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It should be noted that students will be provided with the above only once. Parents/Guardians should have a supply of school stationery to supplement any further demand or to replace/replenish items required by their child.

The Free School Books Scheme does not cover co-curricular or extracurricular activities such as school trips that may require payment. It does not cover the school administration cost, which helps to pay for lockers, student insurance, photocopying and school expenses. It also will not cover additional materials that may be needed for specific subjects such as ingredients for Home Economics and materials in practical subjects like Wood Technology and Engineering.

The €50 deposit paid for the book scheme (in previous years) will be carried forward for all students. (2nd year – 5th year). **This deposit is nontransferable to different school costs** and remains aligned to the book scheme only. Any parent/guardian who wants further information on this can contact principal@cik.ie.

Parents/Guardians of students starting Second and Third Year will continue to use the books they have been allocated from the existing book scheme or those that they may have purchased themselves. The following should be noted carefully:

- ✓ Books in First Year (moving to second year) and Second Year (moving to third year) should be retained by all students for the following academic year.

- ✓ **Any additional/extra new schoolbooks and core classroom resources required by students in Second and Third year will now be covered under the new scheme.**
- ✓ Please note that the scheme will only cover additional books for the coming year and will not cover the replacement of books/materials previously purchased in First and Second Year before the introduction of the scheme, such as those lost, damaged or mislaid.
- ✓ Unless existing books were purchased by the student, those already in circulation are the property of the existing book scheme.
- ✓ Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to students for the duration of the 2024/25 school year and must be returned to school.
- ✓ **All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the new scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years (where applicable).**
- ✓ All textbooks will be barcoded and it will be the responsibility of each student and their parents/guardians to take care of their books. Students are asked not to write on books, except for workbooks so that books can be used again.
- ✓ All books and classroom resources provided through the Free School Book Scheme must be stored in a student's locker or bag and not left around the school. This policy is implemented to ensure the safety and security of the materials, reducing the risk of loss, damage, or misplacement. **Students are responsible for ensuring that their books and materials are stored appropriately and securely at all times.**
- ✓ If a book is mislaid, the student must inform Mr. Nolan (bnolan@cik.ie) by email immediately. The school may be able to replace the textbook but only if funding allows. **This is not guaranteed and the replacement cost may have to be borne by parents/guardians.**
- ✓ **If a schoolbook is damaged beyond repair or missing at the end of their use and so cannot be used by another student, the student and their parents/guardians will be expected to replace the textbook at their own cost.**
- ✓ As with previous years, the school journal will be provided free of charge to all students. Replacement journals cost €10.

Yours Sincerely,



Principal