



St. Columba's College, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.

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19th May 2025

Re: Post-primary Schoolbooks Scheme for the 2025/26 school year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For the 2025/26 school year all students in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme will receive free schoolbooks and core classroom resources. These will be in place in time for the start of the new school year. This scheme is being implemented by Minister for Education Helen McEntee TD. It is in recognition of the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to school. The cost of providing schoolbooks and core classroom resources will now be borne by the State. The scheme will ensure equity of access, where all children and young people enrolled in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme can commence the new school year in 2025/26 with the same schoolbooks and classroom resources as other children and young people in their class.

"Schoolbooks" includes all relevant schoolbooks, including ebooks for all programmes at both Junior and Senior Cycle, including Transition Year. It covers workbooks in use in the school to support teaching and subject learning. It also includes necessary additional texts such as novels and plays for English and where required, books of past examination papers for all subjects.

Funding for the scheme in 2025/26 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 students at the start of the 2025/26 school year.

Parents/Guardians of students commencing third, sixth year and LCA2 may already have purchased, or under the Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme students were provided with, a significant amount of the schoolbooks and classroom resources required. Any additional schoolbooks and core classroom resources required by students in these years will now be covered under the scheme. Please find attached a list of stationary and other resources which will be provided to the various year groups.

All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years (where applicable).

Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to students for the duration of the 2025/26 school year and must be returned to school at the end of the school year/at the end of the programme cycle in Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle.

Please remind your children to take care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition during the period that they are in their possession. It is not permitted to write on schoolbooks. The school is under no obligation to replace an item that has been lost or damaged by a student.

There will be some additional classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme. Further details on the fees payable to the school for consumable materials for Art, Graphics, Engineering, Home Economics and Wood Technology will be itemised and communicated to parents/guardians by the school during the summer months.

Please do not hesitate to contact the college on (074) 9131246 if you have any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely

Tom Rowan
Principal

Principal: Mr. Tom Rowan

Deputy Principals: Mr. John Sweeney, Ms. Georgina White, Ms. Amanda Timony

Additional resources provided under the Schoolbook Scheme 2025-26

Junior Cycle Programme

- 1 school journal per student per Junior Cycle year (1st, 2nd, 3rd Year)
- Copybooks, hardback A4 copies, Science copybook, Maths copybook/grid paper per student in each Junior Cycle year (1st, 2nd, 3rd Year)
- 1 display A4 plastic folder per student per Junior Cycle year (1st, 2nd, 3rd Year)
- 1 plastic zip A4+ meshed per student per Junior Cycle year (1st, 2nd, 3rd Year)
- 1 Maths formulae & tables/log book (to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Junior Cycle) (1st Year students only)
- 1 scientific calculator (to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Junior Cycle) (1st Year students only)
- 1 Mathematical Set for Junior Cycle (1st Year students only)
- 1 music copybook/manuscript and recorder per student per Junior Cycle year (1st Music students only)
- 1 A3 Tuff Bag (1st Year Wood Technology students only)
- English/Irish Dictionary to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Junior Cycle) (1st Year students only)
- English/French Dictionary (1st Year students only)
- English/Spanish Dictionary (1st Year students only)
- TG Drawing equipment –TG compass, 45 degree set square, 30/60 degree set square, protractor, masking tape, A3 Folder (1st Year students only)
- 1 Art Materials pack (for students doing Art) (1st Year students only)
- 1 Needlework kit (for students doing HE) (1st Year students only)
- A complete set of past exam papers in all subjects (3rd Year students only)

Transition Year Programme

- 1 school journal per student
- All necessary copybooks (incl. equivalent hard back notebook or refill pad) per student
- 1 display A4 plastic folder per student
- 1 plastic zip A4+ folder
- Document Wallets
- Art Pack

Leaving Certificate Applied

- 1 school journal per student
- All necessary copybooks (incl. equivalent hard back notebook or refill pad) per student
- Document wallets
- 1 display A4 plastic folder per student
- 1 plastic zip A4+ folder/carry case per student
- Art Pack
- Graphics & Construction Studies Pack

Senior Cycle (5th and 6th Years)

- 1 school journal per student per Senior Cycle year
- Copybooks (including required hardback notebook/refill pads) per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 set of ledgers/equivalent journals for business required for accounting/business subjects per student per Senior Cycle year

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- 1 science specific copy/equivalent per student per Senior Cycle year required for science and applied science subjects
- 1 music copybook/manuscript per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 ring binder folder and pockets or display A4 plastic folder (or equivalent) per student per subject per Senior Cycle year
- 1 plastic zip A4+ mesh folder case per student per Senior Cycle year
- DCG equipment –TG compass, 45 degree set square, 30/60 degree set square, adjustable set square, protractor, masking tape, A3 Folder (5th Year students only)
- 1 maths formulae and tables/log book (for 5th Year students only to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Senior Cycle)
- 1 mathematical geometry set (for 5th Year students only to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Senior Cycle)
- 1 scientific calculator (for 5th Year students only to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Senior Cycle)
- 1 dictionary/relevant grammar book per language studied per student for the duration of Senior Cycle (5th Year students only)

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