

Financial Guideline P21 - 2019-2020

COVID-19 Financial Supports for the Full Return to School

1. Introduction

The purpose of this guideline is to provide details of the COVID-19 financial supports that will be made available to primary schools to fully and safely reopen in a sustainable way while minimising risk associated with COVID-19, as outlined in [Department Circular 0045/2020](#). This should also be read in conjunction with the Department's document [The Roadmap for the full Return to School](#).

All grants payments will start in advance of the school year commencing to allow for funds to be made available for schools. Certain grants will be paid in full in mid-August to allow for reopening and others are paid by instalments during the school year (e.g. grant payments based on each school term). Schools are required to appropriately record costs paid from all grants received. The FSSU's template has been updated with new codes to record the additional COVID-19 grants, see Appendix A – FSSU Chart of Accounts.

2. A new Minor Works Grant to Primary School to Support Full Implementation of COVID-19 Response Plans

The measures necessary to enable the full return to school may include, but are not limited to, reconfiguration of classroom space, re-purposing rooms to provide additional space, adapting storage facilities, purchasing furniture, altering desk layouts, adapting toilet areas, short term rental of additional space etc. Given that each school setting is different, individual schools are best placed to decide on the appropriate re-configuration measures for their school necessary to facilitate school re-opening. To support schools in this work, a once-off minor works grant will issue to primary schools by mid-August, which will amount to a doubling of the minor grant paid to schools.

- a) As per Circular 0062/2013, a €5,500 basic grant plus €18.50 per mainstream pupil and €74 per special needs pupil on the rolls on the 30th September of the year prior to the issue of the grant. (The €74 rate applies to a special needs pupil attending a special school or attending a special class attached to a mainstream school)
- b) An enhanced minor works grant, which matches (a)

The table below provides an illustrative example of the value of the minor works grant for primary schools of various sizes.

School Size	Current Minor Works Grant	Enhanced Covid -19 element	Total Minor Works Grant
60	€6,610	€6,610	€13,220
100	€7,350	€7,350	€14,700
200	€9,200	€9,200	€18,400
300	€11,050	€11,050	€22,100
400	€12,900	€12,900	€25,800
500	€14,750	€14,750	€29,500
Calculations in this table based on number of mainstream pupils only;			

In limited circumstances, the Department will consider applications from schools where the extent of necessary re-configuration works to enable full reopening is such that additional funding may be necessary. This will be considered on a case by case basis by the Department and contact should be made with the Department at reopeningschools@education.gov.ie.

3. Employing an aide to help with school reopening logistics

Schools may employ an aide(s) to assist with the physical and logistical arrangements necessary for school reopening including physical reconfiguration measures in schools setting up hand sanitising stations, signage, training, engaging with parents and staff etc. The daily rate payable is €143.32. This daily rate is inclusive of employers PRSI and holiday pay of 8%.

The table below sets out the number of days funding which is being provided by the Department based on school size.

Enrolment Range		No. of Days
From	To	
<300		2
301	600	5
>600		10
All Special Schools		10

The funding will be provided in the form of a grant payment and will issue to schools in mid-August.

4. COVID-19 Capitation Grant

Schools will receive a COVID-19 Capitation grant to provide for enhanced cleaning and the purchase of necessary supplies of hand sanitiser and PPE for use in the school and classroom.

4.1 Cleaning supports

Funding to support additional cleaning costs will be provided as outlined in the tables below in line with recognised pupil enrolment on 30 September 2019. The grant paid to schools with an enrolment of equal to or less than 60 pupils is based on a minimum enrolment of 60 pupils. Enhanced rates are payable in respect of students attending special schools and special classes attached to mainstream schools to assist with the extra costs associated with the cleaning of classrooms with a small number of students, operating specialist provision. The funding will be provided in the form of a grant paid in instalments, the first of which will issue in mid-August to cover the period to December 2020.

COVID-19 Capitation Grant for Cleaning Costs– rate per pupil	
Mainstream	€63
Special Class	€77

Example of Covid-19 Capitation Grant for Cleaning Costs	
Pupil Enrolment	Value of Grant
Up to 60	€3,780
100	€6,300
200	€12,600
400	€25,200
600	€37,800

Special Schools will receive an enhanced COVID-19 grant in line with the number of teachers allocated as per table below.

Special Schools	
Number of Teachers	Enhanced funding
1	€4,620
2	€4,774
3	€7,392
4	€10,010
5	€12,628
6	€15,169
7	€17,556
8	€19,866
9	€20,944
10	€23,485
11	€26,026
12	€28,567
13	€31,108
14	€33,649
15	€36,190
16	€38,731

4.2 Purchase of hand sanitiser and PPE

A drawdown framework has been established to enable schools to purchase necessary supplies of hand-sanitisers and PPE requirements. The procurement process for this framework is well advanced and it is intended that these materials will be available in early August. The COVID-19 capitation grant will also be the mechanism through which further additional funding will be provided to cater for school costs related to hand hygiene measures and PPE requirements. The funding will be paid in instalments the first of which will issue in mid-August to cover the period to December 2020.

5. Developing Schools

Schools that are currently in the developing stage, i.e. schools that opened since September 2013, will have the additional supports calculated based on the projected enrolment for September 2020.

6. Department Helpline for schools

For further queries in relation to [Department Circular 0045/2020](#) please contact the **Department's Helpline 057 9324461**. The Helpline is open from 9.15am to 5.00pm daily. Queries can also be sent by email to reopeningschools@education.gov.ie.

If you need any further information please email primary@fssu.ie
or phone (01) 910 4020

Financial Support Services Unit

July 2020

Appendix A - FSSU - Chart of Accounts

Nominal Code	Description	Type	Category
3280	COVID Aide Grant	Income	Department of Education & Skills Income
3281	COVID Capitation for Cleaning and PPE Grant	Income	Department of Education & Skills Income
5801	COVID Aide Grant Expense	Expenditure	Repairs, Maintenance & Establishment
5802	COVID Capitation for Cleaning and PPE Grant Expense	Expenditure	Repairs, Maintenance & Establishment
2181	COVID Aide Grant Unspent	Current Liability	Accruals
2182	COVID Capitation for Cleaning and PPE Grant Unspent	Current Liability	Accruals