

### Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Arts Grant in Primary Schools & Special Schools in the Free Education Scheme

#### 1. Introduction

The Department of Education has allocated funding for primary and special schools in the free education system to purchase physical resources supporting the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Arts curricula.

#### 2. Rate

Grants are calculated as follows:

- Fixed payment per school: €500.00
- Per-pupil payment: €14.03
- DEIS/SEN rate per pupil: €16.13

#### 3. Main features of the Grant

This grant is strictly for resources and materials that support the STEM and Arts curricula implementation. ICT equipment is not covered because separate ICT grants address these needs.

Examples of resources and materials:

- **STEM:** Weighing scales, trundle wheel, counters, geoboards, place value cards, blocks and shapes and hands-on experiment tools.
- **Arts:** Paints, canvases, musical instruments, and drama props. This focus ensures resources enhance practical learning experiences.

#### 4. Financial Oversight

The grant income and expenditure should be recorded appropriately in the school's accounts. There is no new grant income code required to be added to the chart of accounts.

- **Grant Income:** The grant receipt can be recorded to nominal code 3170 Special Subject Grant
- **Grant Expense:** There is no new expenditure code required to be added to the chart of accounts. The expenditure can be recorded to nominal account 4490 Other Subject Expense

- **Grant Unspent:** Any unspent amount must be included in the balance sheet at the year-end under the account code 2171 Other Non-Capital Ringfenced Grants Unspent.

Schools must ensure compliance with [DPER Circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds](#).

## 5. Procurement

Schools can choose the resources and suppliers that best meet their needs. When purchasing resources, schools must follow public procurement rules to ensure value for money. It is recommended to obtain at least 3 quotes and maintain full records for audits. Schools can contact the [Schools Procurement Unit](#) for support on procurement.

## 6. Reference

This guideline is based on Department of Education guidance '[Grants to primary schools for the purchase of resources and materials to support the implementation of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics \(STEM\) and Arts curricula in the redeveloped primary curriculum](#)'.

## 7. Further Information

Any queries in relation to the guidance should be emailed to Curriculum & Assessment Policy Unit at the [cap@education.gov.ie](mailto:cap@education.gov.ie).

Tel: 01 910 4020  
[primary@fssu.ie](mailto:primary@fssu.ie)

17 December 2024