



Circular Number: 0063/2025

**To The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Secondary,
Community and Comprehensive Schools
and
the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Supports for Selected Phase One Schools Introducing Climate Action and Sustainable Development in the 2025/26 School Year

Introduction

1. The Minister for Education and Youth wishes to inform managerial authorities and post-primary teachers of arrangements for the provision of curricular resources, and the payment of subject specific grants to selected phase one schools introducing Climate Action and Sustainable Development in the 2025/26 School Year.
2. The [Information Booklet](#) made available to all schools during the Call for Applications by schools interested in applying to become part of the first phase of schools to offer Climate Action and Sustainable Development to students outlined the responsibilities and required infrastructure of Phase One schools and the package of supports to be made available to selected schools.
3. The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Implementation Support Measures contains a package of measures designed to support the implementation of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme in schools and the related curriculum development, assessment and teacher professional learning processes.
4. The measures provided updated information on the supports available for the introduction of new tranche one subjects.

Implementation Support Grant

5. All Phase One schools in the free education scheme will be provided with an annual Climate Action and Sustainable Development Implementation Support grant of €50 per student to support engagement with the new subject in the 2025/26 school year.
6. The October returns submitted by selected schools in the free education scheme will be analysed to assess the appropriate grant.
7. The payment will be made on an automatic basis by year end directly to the selected Phase One Schools, or their Education and Training Board, as appropriate.
8. The grant provided is to be used by schools to support students with the applied learning tasks and action projects. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:
 - Travel and subsistence costs directly associated with the purposes set out above
 - Speaker Fees or external service provider charges if incurred which in any event should be minimised and subject to attaining value for money at all times
 - Entry, admission or ticket fees where relevant
 - Design and print costs
 - Costs of holding events
9. The grant does not cover the purchase of books, resources or licences that are otherwise covered by the Post-Primary Schoolbooks Scheme.
10. The supports provided to Phase One schools will be evaluated to inform the national roll out of the subject. Phase One schools are required to ensure a full record documenting the use of the grant is maintained and available as required on request.
11. Proper financial management procedures need to be applied at all times to the funding provided to schools under the Climate Action and Sustainable Development Implementation Support Grant.

Transactions in relation to the grant should be identified as such in the schools' accounts. Invoices and receipts must be retained for the purposes of potential audit by the Department, the Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU) / Internal Audit Unit/ETBs as appropriate and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General.

It is necessary for schools to retain, on school grounds, as appropriate, details of any quotations received, invoices, receipts and any other relevant records in respect of all expenditure for a period of seven years.
12. If a school closes permanently, any balance held in the account must be surrendered to the Department on the date that the school ceases operation. Where a school closes permanently, due to an amalgamation, any balance held in the account shall transfer to the new school. The Department reserves the right to recoup funding issued from other grant funding for non-compliance with any of the terms of this grant scheme.
13. Schools must ensure compliance with DPER Circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds.

Climate Action and Sustainable Development Establishment Grant

14. All Phase One schools (not limited to those in the free education scheme) will receive once-off funding of €5,000 in September 2025 to establish a Climate Action and Sustainable Development subject department in their school.

15. Schools are asked to confirm by email to scr_info@education.gov.ie **by close of business, 12th September 2025** the number of students studying the subject in the 2025/26 academic year.

16. The payment will issue by the end of September directly to schools that have confirmed a class for the 2025/26 school year, or their Education and Training Board, as appropriate in line with paragraph 15 above

17. The once-off grant is to be used by schools to establish the subject department in their school and to purchase any materials the school deems necessary to teach the subject in their specific setting. No prescribed materials or equipment have been identified for the delivery of the Climate Action and Sustainable Development specification.

18. Materials may include any additional scientific, geography or IT equipment the school may require to support the introduction of the new subject in their school.

19. The grant does not cover the purchase of books or licences that are otherwise covered by the Post-Primary Schoolbooks Scheme.

20. The supports provided to Phase One schools will be evaluated to inform the national roll out of the subject. Phase One schools are required to ensure a full record explaining the use of the grant to establish the subject department is maintained and available as required on request.

21. Proper financial management procedures need to be applied at all times to the funding provided to schools under the Climate Action and Sustainable Development Establishment Grant.

Additional Teacher Allocation

22. As notified in Circulars 0006/2025, 0007/2025 and 0008/2025, the Department is providing Phase One schools with an additional teaching allocation of four hours for 2025/26, rising to a total of eight hours in 2026/27.

This Circular can be accessed on www.gov.ie.

Enquiries regarding this Circular should be e-mailed to SCR_info@education.gov.ie

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