



Supports for the redeveloped Primary Curriculum

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Grants to primary schools for the purchase of resources and materials to support the implementation of the Wellbeing Curriculum in the redeveloped primary curriculum.

1. Introduction

€10m has been allocated for primary and special schools in the free education system to purchase physical resources to support the new Wellbeing Specification.

This investment is part of a long-term plan to give schools continued support, helping them create hands-on learning experiences and more inclusive, engaging environments for all pupils, including those with special educational needs.

Grants are calculated as follows:

Fixed payment per school:

- €400 - 1 to 30 pupils
- €500 - 31-50 pupils
- €750 - 51 - 150 pupils
- €1000 - over 151 pupils

Per-pupil payment: €13.10

DEIS/SEN rate per pupil: €15.10

This ensures schools receive appropriate funding based on their size and specific needs.

2. What the Funding Can Be Used For

This grant is strictly for resources and materials that support the implementation of the Wellbeing Specification curricula. **ICT equipment is not covered** as separate ICT grants address these needs.



Key Principles

- **Reusable & low-maintenance:** All items should be weather-resistant and built to last.
- **Cross-curricular value:** Consider how PE, SPHE, and Wellbeing lessons can all benefit from each purchase.
- **No consumables or recurring costs:** Avoid items that require external contracts, subscriptions, guest speakers, or facilitators — every purchase should remain usable for future classes without additional expense.

Examples of resources and materials:

PE Fit-Out

- Core equipment to support all activity areas: games (soft balls, bats, tag belts etc.),
- athletics (cones, batons, agility ladders), gymnastics/movement (mats, benches etc.)
- outdoor/adventure (orienteeing markers etc.), dance (portable speaker, ribbons/scarves etc.)
- Inclusive options such as textured balls, adjustable targets, and beginner-friendly equipment etc.
- Digital tools with no subscriptions: stopwatches, pedometers, rechargeable speaker, simple tripod/tablet stand etc.
- Long-term, durable storage for PE and wellbeing equipment (indoor and weatherproof outdoor options).

Physical Wellbeing & Active Play

- Playground materials: cones, skipping ropes, soft balls, beanbags, hoops, parachute, storage bags, etc.
- Include materials that support inclusive yard games and movement breaks (e.g., soft-impact options, visual markers etc.)
- Choose durable equipment where possible
- Weatherproof composite picnic tables/benches for “chat & calm” zones

Emotional / Sensory Regulation

- Regulation equipment: beanbag seating, sensory lamp, rug, small plants, etc.
- Consider durable, reusable items for classroom or library calm spaces.

Relational & Social Wellbeing

- Circle Time resources: soft floor cushions, talking piece, mood board etc.

Literacy to Support Wellbeing

- Books with social and emotional themes to support empathy, self-awareness, and interpersonal skills.



Personal Health, Care, and Human Development

- Examples include oral-hygiene models and anatomically correct dolls.

3. 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. Obtain written quotes when appropriate and maintain full records for audits.
- Use established management board procedures for tendering, paying invoices, and keeping records.
- Seek support if needed:
 - Schools Procurement Unit: Free advice and updates for primary/post-primary schools (excluding ETB). 'Guidance for Schools on Good Procurement Practices' can be found [here](#)
 - Office of Government Procurement: Visit www.ogp.gov.ie or email support@ogp.gov.ie.
 - ETB schools: Contact your local ETB Administrative Office.
- It's recommended to obtain at least 3 quotes.

4. Requests for Tenders/Quotations

Each school has unique needs. When planning purchases:

- **Be specific:** Clearly outline what you need to avoid confusion or mistakes.
- **Green procurement:** Include Green Public Procurement (GPP) guidelines in every tender. Choose products with lower environmental impacts, like recycled materials or reduced packaging waste. For details, see the [GPP Guidance](#). Also, check out the Sustainable Procurement Tips for Schools on the [Schools Procurement Unit website](#).
- **Fair evaluation:** Ensure the process is clear, fair, and based on your request for quotation (RFQ) criteria. While price matters, also consider quality, delivery, and customer service.
- **Wrap up and keep records:** Be sure to meet deadlines and notify both successful and unsuccessful bidders. Keep all procurement documents for future reference.

4. Managing Your Resources

Every school is different, as is the resources and materials that you have. When planning how to spend your grant money, you should think about your own school needs and of your pupils needs. You should consider the following:



- **Assess your needs and priorities**
 - Look at what you already have and make a list of the resources your school needs.
 - Some companies may offer ready-made lists to your school. These may not fit your school unique needs.
- **Plan and budget your resources**
 - Prioritise what's most important for your school.
 - Create a clear plan for purchasing and managing resources, keeping long-term needs in mind.
- **Make the most of the resources**
 - Share resources between classrooms, when possible, to maximise their value.
 - Reuse or repurpose items to save money and reduce waste, helping the environment too.

Delivery of the new Primary Curriculum specifications

Delivery of the new Primary Curriculum specifications for all school leaders and teachers, alongside the Primary Curriculum Framework poster, will commence in the week beginning **19 January 2026**. This forms part of a coordinated programme of support designed to ensure schools are fully supported in understanding, planning for, and implementing the redeveloped primary curriculum.

Mark Bohan
Principal Officer
Curriculum & Assessment Policy Unit

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