



Circular Number: 0029/2026

**To: The Management Authorities of Recognised Primary Schools in the
Free Education Scheme**

Revision of Ancillary Services Grant rates for Recognised Primary and Special Schools in the Free Education Scheme

1. Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to set out the revised per capita rate applicable to the Ancillary Services Grant allocated to recognised Primary Schools for 2026.

This circular replaces Circular 0017/2021.

2. Rate applicable

The Ancillary Services grant rate will be increased effective from January 2026 to cater for the introduction of the State-sponsored retirement saving scheme MyFutureFund.

Appendix A of this Circular sets out the revised rates of the Ancillary Services Grant for 2026.

3. The Purpose of the Ancillary Services Grant

The Ancillary Services Grant is intended to cater for the cost of employing Secretarial and Caretaking staff. This grant is paid to those schools that have not been provided with secretarial and/or caretaking assistance under the 1978/1979 schemes.

If a school has a full-time secretary under the 1978/1979 schemes who is paid directly through the Non-Teaching Staff Payroll operated by the department but does not have a caretaker employed under the terms of these schemes, the school is entitled to receive reduced grant assistance in respect of caretaking services.

The same arrangement applies if a school has a full-time caretaker employed under the terms of the 1978/1979 schemes who is paid directly through the Non-Teaching Staff Payroll operated by the department, but does not have a secretary under these schemes, the school is entitled to receive reduced grant assistance in respect of secretarial services.

The Capitation Grant provided for general running costs, and the Ancillary Services Grant provided for Secretarial and Caretaking services may be regarded as a common grant from which the Board of Management can allocate according to its own priorities. Please see [Circular 0040/2009](#) for more information



4. Timing of payment

The department will aim to pay the first instalment in April as an 8-month payment and the second instalment in November as a 4-month payment.

5. Ancillary-related grant reductions

After Fórsa accepted the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) agreement on salaries and leave for grant-funded school secretaries, the secretaries who accepted the agreement were added to the Department of Education and Youth's payroll from September 2023. Because of this, the ancillary-related grant funding has been updated, since schools are no longer paying these salaries directly. The department has communicated with schools regarding ancillary-related grant reductions since September 2023.

6. Circulation and Queries

Please ensure that this Circular is brought to the attention of the board of management and all relevant staff in the school.

Queries from schools in relation to this Circular should be addressed to Schools Division Financial section at sdinfo@education.gov.ie.

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Principal Officer
Schools Financial & Database Unit
27 April 2026



Appendix A

Revised Rates of Ancillary Services Grant funding to Schools

1. Mainstream Schools

The Ancillary Services Grant is based on the enrolment figure on 30th September of the previous year. The grant paid to a school with an enrolment of equal to or less than 60 pupils is based on a minimum enrolment of 60 pupils, while the maximum grant paid is based on an enrolment figure of 500 pupils.

The standard full rate Ancillary Services Grant is increased from €173 to €175.60 per pupil.

The standard reduced rate grant is increased from €89.50 to €90.80 per pupil.

(Applicable for schools that have either a secretary or caretaker under the 1978/79 scheme and paid via the payroll operated by the department.)

2. Special Schools

Special schools are paid the Ancillary Services Grant based on the number of authorised fulltime teaching staff approved by the department for the school as outlined below.

The maximum grant is paid based on a ceiling of 16 teachers.

Number of teachers	Full rate	Reduced rate
1	€12,852	€6,606.00
2	€13,280	€6,826.20
3	€20,563	€10,569.60
4	€27,846	€14,313.00
5	€35,129	€18,056.40
6	€42,197	€21,689.70
7	€48,838	€25,102.80
8	€55,264	€28,405.80
9	€58,262	€29,947.20
10	€65,331	€33,580.50
11	€72,400	€37,213.80
12	€79,468	€40,847.10
13	€86,537	€44,480.40
14	€93,605	€48,113.70
15	€100,674	€51,747.00
16	€107,100	€55,050.00