

Free Schoolbook Grant

(Document last updated August 2024)

1. Introduction

In 2023 the Department of Education introduced the Free Schoolbooks Grant to primary schools. In 2024 the Department extended the Free Schoolbooks Grant to include junior cycle students in post-primary schools. The Department continues to provide the Book Grant under circular 13/2014 to senior cycle students in post-primary schools – [see Accounting Treatment 19](#).

The grant allows schools to provide free schoolbooks to pupils, including schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks and where funding allows some related classroom resources also. The per capita rates are as follows:

- €80 Primary Schools (paid May 2024)
 - €309 Post Primary Schools (paid March 2024)
- based on validated September 2023 enrolment numbers.

2. Accounting Treatment

The grant is paid in advance of the next academic year. The income and any related expenditure incurred up to 31/08/XX should be deferred to the next academic year as shown in the examples below.

The nominal codes to be used to account for the grant received, the expenditure of the grant and any unspent balance are set out below.

Year 1: Grant received in advance of next academic year

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Free Schoolbooks Grant Received	DR	1800	Current Account 1 Current Asset
	CR	2151	Book Grant Received in Advance Current Liability

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Expenditure for Books that will not be used until next school year	DR	1720	Prepayments Current Asset

Year 2: Next School Year

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Transfer from Book Grant Received in Advance to Book Grant Unspent	DR	2151	Book Grant Received in Advance Current Liability
	CR	2160	Book Grant Unspent Current Liability

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Reversal of Prepayment	DR	4731	Free Schoolbooks Grant Expense Expense
	CR	1720	Prepayments Current Asset

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Journal to recognise Free schoolbook grant income in line with recorded expenditure	DR	2160	Book Grant Unspent Current Liability
	CR	3151	Free Schoolbooks Grant Income Income

Throughout the school year, any additional Free Schoolbook Grant expense incurred relating to that year will be treated in the following manner:

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Purchase of schoolbooks during school year	DR	4731	Free Schoolbooks Grant Expense Expense
	CR	1800	Current Account 1 Current Asset

Action	DR/CR	Nominal Code	Description
Matching purchase of schoolbooks during school year with income	DR	2160	Book Grant Unspent Current Liability
	CR	3151	Free Schoolbooks Grant Income Income