



AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Circular Letter M 54/00

To: Management Authorities of Second-Level schools

School Services Support Fund initiative at second level

Earlier this year the Minister for Education and Science announced the introduction of a School Services Support Fund for second level schools.

The Fund is being introduced with effect from the 2000/2001 school year, is linked to school size, and is in addition to all existing funding arrangements. Under the initiative schools will receive annual funding of £20 per recognised pupil with a minimum payment of £4,000 per school to support school services. Payment of the fund in respect of the first term of the 2000/2001 school year will be made shortly.

This funding initiative represents a new approach by the Department which supports the school development planning process that has at its core the concept of the individual school planning the delivery of its education service to its pupils, reviewing its priorities and its needs. This process can only be enhanced if each school is given some flexibility in the deployment of its resources.

In line with this approach while provision for backup, including secretarial and caretaking, is a particular focus of this fund, schools are being given discretion in line with that available in relation to per capita grants as to how this additional funding is best utilised in the interest of their pupils.

It should be noted that schools are accountable to the Department for the funds on the same basis as applies in the case of the per capita grants.

Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Any queries in relation to this matter should be directed to Post Primary Administration, Department of Education and Science, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. (Phone: 0506 – 24335).

John Dennehy
Secretary General
October 2000