

Dear Parents/Guardians

For the 2024/25 school year, all students in Junior Cycle years in Newpark Comprehensive School will receive free schoolbooks and certain other resources. These will be in place in August 2024.

The new scheme is being introduced by Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD. It is in recognition of the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to school. The new scheme eliminates the cost to parents/guardians of providing schoolbooks and core classroom resources. The scheme will ensure equity of access, where all children and young people enrolled in Junior Cycles years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme can commence the new school year in 2024/25 with the same schoolbooks and classroom resources as other children and young people in their class.

'Schoolbooks' includes all relevant schoolbooks, including eBooks at Junior Certificate level. It also covers workbooks in use in the school to support teaching and subject learning at Junior Cycle. It also includes necessary additional texts such as novels and plays for English or books/photocopies of past Junior Cycle examination papers for all subjects.

Funding for the scheme in 2024/25 is being provided directly to post-primary schools by the Department of Education. All post-primary schools now have the responsibility for providing schoolbooks and core classroom resources to all Junior Cycle students at the start of the forthcoming year.

Where parents/guardians of second- and third-year students currently own their schoolbooks, these may be used.

Parents/guardians of students commencing second and third year will have already purchased a significant amount of the schoolbooks and classroom resources required for Junior Cycle. Any additional schoolbooks and core classroom resources required by students in second and third year will now be covered under the new scheme.

All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the new scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years (where applicable).

Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to students for the duration of the 2024/25 school year and must be returned to school at the end of Junior Cycle or when a student leaves the school, if earlier.

Please remind your children to take care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition during the period that they are in their possession. It is not permitted to write on schoolbooks.

Further details (if any) on what items parents/guardians will need to supply for the return to school in September 2024 will be itemised and communicated to parents/guardians by the office in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Eoin Norton,
Principal.