

St. Nessian's National School

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St. Nessian's National School Free Book Scheme

An announcement was made as part of Budget 2023 that all primary school children will be able to avail of free school books from September 2023. Here at St. Nessian's National School, we have been working hard to put a Free School Books Scheme into place to succeed our current Book Rental Scheme, which has been running very successfully since September 2015. You may have questions about how the Scheme will work and what exactly it will provide for your child. We have compiled some questions and answers below, which we hope will make the new Book Scheme easy to understand.

What is covered by the new Free School Books Scheme?

All primary school children will benefit from the use of all the textbooks, workbooks and copies that they will need for the coming school year. They may also have the use of some stationery, subject to the availability of funds.

What do I have to do in order for my child to be in the new Free School Books Scheme?

Nothing. Your child's class teacher will provide your child with the correct textbooks, workbooks and copies they will need for their class level in September.

Who will own the books?

All textbooks will remain the property of St. Nessian's National School. Your child will have the use of them for the year and will be expected to look after them, and then return them to the school in good condition the following June. Your child will also be given workbooks and copies, which they will write into. At the end of the school year, these workbooks and copies may be kept by you and disposed of as you wish.

Can I keep any of the books at the end of the school year?

As stated in the above point, all textbooks remain the property of the school. You may, however, keep the workbooks and copies into which your child has written at the end of the school year.

Will my child be given all new books?

No. The Free School Books Scheme is to be built on our Book Rental Scheme, as advised by the Department of Education. This means that we will continue to use our stock of textbooks, which we have been using in our Book Rental Scheme, and we will replace only those textbooks that are of poor quality through wear and tear. So your child will not receive new textbooks

To translate this document, go to <https://translate.google.com/?sl=en&tl=fr&op=docs>

for the most part. All workbooks and copies, however, will be new as your child will be writing into them.

Will I have to pay a deposit as I did with the Book Rental Scheme?

No. The Free School Books Scheme is exactly that, free. No deposits will be requested.

Will you provide all the stationery (pencils, erasers, etc.) that my child will need?

The Free School Books Scheme allows for us to provide stationery. However, this will depend on what funds are left after the costs of purchasing textbooks, workbooks and copies are taken into account. Therefore, you may have to provide stationery items for your child to use in school. If we do provide stationery to your child, those items will be for use in school only, and will not go home. This might include pencils, pens, erasers, colours, Pritt Sticks and so on. For that reason, your child would need to have such items available to them at home so they can complete their homework. Some items, such as folders and display books may be taken home when they are needed for homework. If you need to provide stationery for your child, you will receive a stationery list in June.

So do I have to pay any money to the school this year?

The simple answer to this question is yes, you will. The following is a breakdown of what the Free School Books Scheme Grant pays for:

- Textbooks
- Workbooks
- Copies
- Stationery (when funds are available)

The Free School Books Grant also allows for the inclusion of Art and Crafts materials and photocopying, but the reality is that, having paid for the above listed items, there will be little or no money left to fund them. So, as in previous years, we will be asking you for a payment to cover the costs of these items.

The Free School Books Scheme also does not cover co-curricular activities such as swimming, basketball, gymnastics, etc. So again, as in previous years, you will have to pay for these activities.

You will receive a full breakdown of what your child will be receiving for the next school year in June as well as a list of any stationery you may need to buy, and you will receive an electronic payment request to cover any costs payable.

I don't want my child to take part in the Free School Books Scheme. Do they have to?

No. It is your decision whether your child takes part or not. However if you decide that your child will not take part in the Scheme, you will have to buy all the textbooks, workbooks, copies and stationery he/she will need. You will be sent a list of what your child will require, and it will be your responsibility to make sure that your child has all of these items when he/she

returns for the new school year. The school will not be obliged to refund the cost of such purchases to you.

What happens if my child leaves St. Nessian's National School mid-year?

If your child leaves St. Nessian's National School during the school year, all books and any related classroom resources he/she has been using must be returned to the class teacher before he/she departs. It will be the responsibility of your child's new school to provide him/her with a complete set of books, including textbooks, workbooks and copies as well as any related classroom resources.

We sincerely hope that this document goes some way to explaining the new Book Scheme. If you have any further queries or questions about the new Scheme, please do not hesitate to contact the school at office@stnessans.ie or the Book Scheme Coordinator at bkinsella@stnessans.ie. We will do our best to answer any further questions or to clarify any information to the best of our ability. We would ask you to remember though, that because this is a new Scheme, we are still learning about how it will work best, and we will amend the running of the new Scheme as necessary for the benefit of all. We recommend that you read through the new Free School Books Scheme Policy which is available here:

<https://www.stnessans.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Free-School-Books-Scheme-Policy.pdf>