



**Circular 0066/2025**

**To: The Management Authorities of each Voluntary Secondary School**

**Revision of Capitation Grant Rates for  
Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme**

**1. Introduction**

This circular explains the updated per-capita rates applicable to capitation grant funding given to voluntary secondary schools under the Free Education Scheme.

This circular replaces Circular 0079/2024.

**2. Purpose of Capitation Grant**

Capitation funding is intended to contribute to the everyday running costs of schools, like heating, lighting, cleaning, insurance, and general maintenance. Part of the grant may also be used by schools to buy teaching materials and resources.

The funding provided for general running costs, as well as for caretaking and secretarial services, can be considered a common grant. The Board of Management can decide how to use this money based on the school's own needs and priorities.

Please see [Circular 0048/2009](#) for more information.

Grant funding should be used for the purpose for which it is provided in accordance with DPENDR [Circular 13/2014](#).

**3. Grant Rates**

**3.1. Standard Capitation Grant.**

The standard capitation grant is paid in three instalments in September, January and April. The standard rate of grant for the 2025/2026 school year is €386 per student.

**3.2. School Services Support Fund Grants**

The details of the School Services Support Fund Grant, Secretary Grant / SSSF Secretary, and Caretaker Grant / SSSF Caretaker grant funding for voluntary secondary schools in the Free Education Scheme are provided in [Circular 0082/2020](#). The new rules for hiring secretaries, based on the Fórsa/WRC agreement, are published in [Circular 0036/2022](#). According to paragraph 2.2 of this Circular and Info Note [ESR 02/2023](#), from 13 June 2022, new secretaries must be employed under the new terms and conditions, meaning they must be paid via the Department payroll, not by the school. NTS Payroll section can be contacted via this online form - [Customer Contact Form](#)



#### **4. Other Grant Rates**

##### **4.1. Special Class Grant**

This grant is paid every December for students who have been psychologically assessed with a mild or moderate general learning disability and are in a special class approved by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE). The rate of this grant is €225 per student.

##### **5. Irish and Bilingual Grants**

These grants are paid in May each year to schools where all subjects are taught through Irish, or those where a maximum of 4 subjects are taught through Irish. The rates of these grants are increasing to:

- €122.26 per student for all subjects taught through Irish and
- €24.45 per student per subject up to a maximum of 4 subjects taught through Irish.

##### **5.1. Traveller capitation grant**

This grant is paid every December for Traveller students enrolled in schools. The rate of this grant is €239.00 per student.

The current rates for other grants can be found in Appendix A.

#### **6. Circulation and Queries.**

Please ensure that this Circular is shared with the Board of Management and the Parents Association (if applicable).

Schools with queries in relation to this Circular should contact Schools Division Financial at [sdfinfo@education.gov.ie](mailto:sdfinfo@education.gov.ie).

Shirley Kearney  
Principal Officer  
Schools Division Financial  
17th September 2025



## Appendix A – Grant Rates

	Grant Type	Rate	Details
a)	Standard Capitation Grant	€386 per student	Each eligible school receives the Capitation Grant, which is calculated according to enrolment.  The capitation grant is paid in three instalments in September, January and April (This grant is increased from €345 to €386 per student with effect from 1 September 2025).
b)	Special Class Grant	€225 per student	Students psychologically assessed as having a mild or moderate general learning disability and who are participating in a NCSE-approved special class.
c)	Irish and Bilingual Grants	€122.26 per student  €24.45 per student per subject	All Subjects taught through Irish.  Maximum of 4 subjects taught through Irish.
d)	Traveller Capitation	€239.00 per student	Grant for Traveller students enrolled in schools
e)	Junior Certificate Schools Programme	€63 per student	Programme Grant
f)	Transition Year Grant	€100 per student	Programme Grant
g)	Leaving Certificate Applied Programme	€159 per student	Programme Grant
h)	Physics & Chemistry	€13 per student	Programme Grant