



Our Lady's Secondary School
Castleblayney
Co. Monaghan

Tel: 042 9740351
Fax: 042 9749197
E-mail: office@olss.ie
Web: www.olss.ie

Principal: *Mr. Eddie Kelly*
Deputy Principals: *Ms. Jane Treanor, Mr. Darren Bishop*

Re: Senior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme for the 2026/27 school year.

May 11th 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For the 2026/27 school year, all students in Senior Cycle years in the free education system will receive free schoolbooks and specific other resources. These will be in place in September 2026.

This new scheme, introduced last year by the Minister for Education, is a significant step towards relieving the financial burden on parents and guardians. It recognises the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to school, eliminating the need for parents/guardians to provide schoolbooks and core classroom resources. This ensures equity of access, allowing all children and young people enrolled in Senior Cycle years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme to start the new school year in 2026/27 with the same schoolbooks and classroom resources as their peers. The scheme includes all relevant schoolbooks, cover workbooks, and Senior Cycle past examination papers for all subjects.

All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the new scheme will remain the school's property and be reused in future years (where applicable). Schoolbooks will be loaned to students for the 2026/27 school year and must be returned to school at the end of the school year or the end of the three years of the Senior Cycle.

Students will need to take care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition when they are in their possession. Writing in schoolbooks is not permitted. Students will be asked to replace lost and damaged books in their care. Below is a list of books/resources for students under this scheme.

Please note there will be a cost of €80 for parents and guardians, covering school insurance, guidance-related testing, Compass SMS messaging service, a school locker, mobile phone Yondr pouches, and photocopying and stationery that students will receive for class notes, tests, etc, over the year.

If you have any queries concerning the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Eddie Kelly
Principal

Appendix 1 –Classroom resources

In addition to all school textbooks and workbooks the following resources will be provided for all students in Senior Cycle years (where the items are required based on particular subject choices and each school's requirements):

- All school textbooks
- All school workbooks
- Senior Cycle past examination papers
- 1 school journal per student per Senior Cycle year
- 10 copybooks (incl. equivalent hardback copybook or refill pad) per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 hardback copy
- 1 display A4 plastic folder per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 plastic zip A4 folder/carry case per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 set of ledgers/journals/cash books required for accounting/business studies per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 science copybook per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 music copybook/manuscript per student per Senior Cycle year
- 1 maths formulae & tables/log book (to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Senior Cycle)
- 1 scientific calculator (to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Senior Cycle)
- Dictionary/(ies) (to remain assigned to that student for the duration/remainder of the Senior Cycle)

Appendix 2 –Resources / items not included under the Senior Cycle Books Scheme

The following resources/items are not included under the Senior Cycle book scheme

- Student Insurance (included in the €80 fee paid by parents/guardians at the start of the year)
- Photocopying of notes, tests etc (included in the €80 fee paid by parents/guardians at the start of the year)
- Mobile Phone Yondr pouches (included in the €80 fee paid by parents/guardians at the start of the year)
- Compass SMS Messaging Service (included in the €80 fee paid by parents/guardians at the start of the year)
- Guidance Related Testing (included in the €80 fee paid by parents/guardians at the start of the year)
- Ingredients for Home Economics (to be brought in by students as required for their cooking)
- Pre Leaving Certificate Examination Papers (to be paid by parents/guardians in January 2026)
- Subject-related class trips (to be paid by parents/guardians as students are informed of trips)