



Our Lady's Secondary School
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Principal: *Mr. Eddie Kelly*
Deputy Principals: *Ms. Jane Treanor, Mr. Darren Bishop*

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

May 11th 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

This scheme was introduced by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD last year. It recognises 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 Cycle years in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme can commence the new school year in 2026/27 with the same schoolbooks and classroom resources as other children and young people in their class. Schoolbooks include all relevant schoolbooks and cover workbooks in use to support teaching and subject learning at Junior Cycle. It also includes Junior Cycle past examination papers for all subjects.

All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the new scheme will remain the school's property to 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/ the end of the three years of Junior Cycle.

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

Please be aware that there will be a cost of €80 for parents and guardians. This fee covers school insurance, 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 Junior Cycle years (where the items are required based on particular subject choices and each school's own individual requirements):

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

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

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

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