



Circular Number: 0082/2020

To: The Management Authorities of Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme

Revision of Schools Support Staff Funding Grant Rates for Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme

1. Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to inform management authorities of the revised per capita rate applicable to Schools Support Staff Funding (SSSF) allocated to Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme for 2021.

2. Rate applicable in 2021

In accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act (unwinding of FEMPI – Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 – 2020), annualised salaries were increased by 2% with effect from 1 October 2020 as outlined in Part A of Circular 0075/2019.

The SSSF per capita grant rate was increased in 2020 to cater for this additional three month cost and is being increased further to provide for the twelve month of this pay increase in 2021. Therefore, the per capita rate payable in 2021 is €224.50, representing an increase of €1.00 per pupil.

Appendix A of this Circular sets out the revised rates of the School Services Support Fund Grant. It also sets out the rates of Secretary and Caretaker Grants.

3. Circulation and Queries

Please ensure that the contents of this Circular are brought to the attention of all members of the Board of Management and all relevant staff in the school.

Please note that any references to schools in this Circular refer only to Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme.

Queries regarding the implementation of this Circular should be addressed to the relevant school management body in the first instance.

Tom Deegan
Schools Division Financial
22 December 2020

Appendix A

Rates of School Services Support Fund Grant, Secretary Grant, SSSF Secretary Grant, Caretaker Grant and SSSF Caretaker grant funding to Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme (For payment in January 2021)

	Grant Type	Rate	Details
a)	School Services Support Grant (SSSF)	€224.50	<p>The SSSF grant is increased from €223.50 to €224.50 per pupil.</p> <p>The SSSF Grant is paid in three instalments in September, January and April.</p> <p>The grant is calculated at a minimum enrolment of 200 pupils and thereafter according to enrolment.</p>
b)	Basic Secretarial Grant	€40.00	<p>To qualify for this grant, a school must have an enrolment figure of at least 200 pupils. The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p> <p>Schools employing secretaries under 'the 1978 scheme do not receive any secretary grants</p>
c)	SSSF Secretary Grant	€26.50	<p>The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p> <p>Schools employing secretaries under 'the 1978 scheme' do not receive any secretary grants.</p>
d)	Basic Caretaker Grant	€34.00	<p>To qualify for the basic caretaker grant, a school must have an enrolment figure of at least 200 pupils. The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p>
e)	SSSF Caretaker Grant	€20.50	<p>The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p>