



To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme, Community and Comprehensive Schools, and The Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards

Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Additional Supervision Arrangements for the 2020/21 School Year

The Minister for Education and Skills directs you to implement the arrangements set out below for Additional Supervision for the 2020/21 school year.

1. Background

It is recognised that post-primary schools will require additional supervision cover in the 2020/21 school year to deal with the Covid-19 emergency situation and maximise physical distancing within the school.

As part of a range of measures to support schools for a full re-opening at the commencement of the 2020/21 school year, the Department is allocating additional funding to schools to cover these additional supervision needs through an “Enhanced Supervision Grant”.

The arrangements set out below are a temporary measure for the 2020/21 school year in light of the exceptional circumstances and will be reviewed prior to the end of that year.

2. Additional Supervision Arrangements

In order to facilitate maximum social distancing, it is envisaged that schools will require increased supervision throughout the day in the following areas:

- increased supervision of students before and after school, at break times and at lunchtimes to encourage good behaviour and social distancing;
- supervising hand hygiene measures needed to be undertaken by students to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- at more entry and exit points than are currently used in order to minimise contact;
- supervision at lockers and bathroom areas.

The above is not an exhaustive list and additional supervision may be required in other areas depending on the needs of the school.

3. Enhanced Supervision Grant

As notified previously in Circular 0046/2020, the level of available funding to schools outlined in the table below is payable at the rate of €105 per pupil by reference to the recognised mainstream enrolment enrolments as well as enrolments in special classes attached to mainstream schools on 30 September 2019.

The grant paid to a school with an enrolment of equal to or less than 200 pupils is based on a minimum enrolment of 200 pupils.

Enhanced Supervision Supports	
Pupil Enrolment	Value of Payment
Up to 200	€21,000
400	€42,000
600	€63,000
800	€84,000
1,000	€105,000
1,200	€126,000
1,400	€147,000
1,600	€168,000

The funding will be provided in the form of a grant which will issue in instalments, the first of which issued in early August 2020. Schools will be required to record and report on the amount of the Enhanced Supervision Grant advanced for each school term that was actually incurred and paid. This is required before the advance of the next term's Enhanced Supervision Grant is processed, with the level of grant funding not fully utilised taken into account in the subsequent grant payment calculations.

4. Separate to Supervision under the S&S Scheme

These arrangements in respect of the Enhanced Supervision Grant are separate and additional to a teacher's compulsory liability under the Supervision & Substitution scheme.

5. Operational Arrangements

The additional funding provided to the school may be used to pay teachers for additional supervision on a voluntary, casual and non-pensionable basis for the 2020/21 school year only (in addition to the teacher's compulsory S&S liability).

In the current school year 2020/21, the level of supervision required to be carried out by a teacher under the compulsory S&S scheme should be no more than the level of supervision that was required in 2019/20.

The teacher will be paid for additional supervision carried out on a weekly basis in 2020/21 that is over and above the weekly level of supervision carried out by the teacher under their compulsory S&S liability.

It must be noted that the Enhanced Supervision Supports set out above may be drawn down and are payable only in respect of supervision and may not under any circumstances be used to pay for additional substitution.

Additional supervision hours should be offered using the following sequence:

1. Part-time teachers employed in the school who are not currently opted out of the S&S scheme, then
2. Full-time teachers employed in the school who are not currently opted out of the S&S scheme, then
3. Teachers employed in the school who are currently opted out of the S&S scheme whether employed on a part-time or full-time basis, then
4. A PME student who is undertaking the school placement element of their PME course in that school may be offered supervision. Where this occurs, the student should as far as possible carry out supervision in an area of the school where they have contact with a teacher colleague.
5. Where additional supervision hours remain after the above sequence has been exhausted, school management may source and recruit personnel to provide supervision services.

6. Hourly Rates Payable

All those engaged to undertake supervision under 1 to 4 above will be paid at the rates set out in Table (a) Teacher at section 7 below.

Where under 5 above, a teacher or retired teacher who is qualified, registered and vetted is engaged for this work, they will be paid at the rates set out in Table (a) Teacher at section 7 below. Other personnel will be paid at the rates set out in Table (b) Supervisor at section 7 below.

7. Tables setting out Hourly Rates Payable

The hourly rates payable to individual teachers/supervisors for additional supervision work are as follows:

(a) TEACHER:

	Ongoing Rate	Value of Statutory Annual Leave Accumulated per Hour Worked
Pre-1 January 2011 Entrant to Teaching	€42.08	€5.74
Post-1 January 2011 Entrant to Teaching	€37.88	€5.16

(b) SUPERVISOR:

	Ongoing Rate	Value of Statutory Annual Leave Accumulated per Hour Worked
Pre-1 January 2011 Entrant to Employment	€18.75	€2.56
Post-1 January 2011 Entrant to Employment	€16.88	€2.30

Please note schools should include employer's PRSI in addition to the above rates when calculating the amount of grant available to spend.

8. Circulation and Queries

Please ensure that the contents are brought to the attention of all teachers in your employment including those on leave of absence.

All queries should initially be brought to the attention of the employer who may wish to consult with their representative organisation. Any further queries may be directed to the Department at the following email addresses:

- Queries in relation to Enhanced Supervision Grant funding: sdfinfo@education.gov.ie
- Queries in relation to the operation of the supervision arrangements: esr@education.gov.ie

This Circular can be accessed on the Department's website at www.education.ie

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12 August 2020

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