



Primary Branch

To Boards of Management and Principal Teachers of National Schools

Scheme of additional per capita grants to national schools in respect of secretarial and caretaking services (PESP Scheme)

1. Introduction

Further to [3/00](#) which issued earlier this year regarding the above scheme, the Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods TD is pleased to announce that this scheme will now be extended to all schools with effect from September 2000 rather than January 2001 as stated in [3/00](#). This further extension will now benefit schools with an enrolment of less than 100 pupils and who are not already in receipt of secretarial or caretaking assistance under the 1978/79 schemes.

2. Payment of the PESP grants

The Department is currently finalising arrangements for the payment of the PESP grants to all eligible schools. It is expected that the grant payment will be made to schools prior to the end of September 2000. The grants issuing to schools at that time will be in respect of the period 1 September to 31 December 2000.

The rate of grant is currently £40 per pupil per annum (i.e. £20 per pupil per service, subject to a maximum of £20,000 overall or £10,000 per service). Therefore, schools eligible under this further extension of the scheme will qualify for one-third of the annual grant payable for the period 1 September to 31 December 2000 (i.e. £13 per pupil per service).

It should be noted that a minimum grant will apply to all schools with 60 pupils or less for the period 1 September to 31 December 2000. The minimum grant applicable to schools with 60 pupils or less, and who do not have the benefit of a secretary or caretaker under the 1978/1979 schemes, will be £780.

In the event of a school with less than 60 pupils already having the benefit of either a secretary or caretaker under the 1978/1979 schemes, the minimum grant applicable will be £390 for this period.

Payment of the grants in future years will be on a purely annual basis and it is expected that the payment will be made in January of each year.

3. Queries

Any queries in connection with this circular should be directed to
Primary Administration
Section 2,
Department of Education and Science,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath
(Phone 0902 – 74621 extns. 3726/7/8/9 and 3741).

Peter Baldwin,
Assistant Secretary.

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