



Circular Letter 0065/2021

To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary Schools, Special Schools, Post-Primary Schools, and the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards

**Enhanced Minor Works Grant Funding for Primary Schools
Exceptional Minor Works Grant Funding for Post-Primary
Schools with a particular focus on supporting enhanced
ventilation**

1. Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to provide details of the Enhanced Minor Works for Primary Schools and the Exceptional Minor Works Grant Funding for Post-Primary Schools in continuing to support the operation of schools generally and particularly within a Covid-19 environment, with a specific focus on providing additional support to schools for the implementation of the ventilation guidance published by the Department in May 2021.

The payment of these grants at this stage gives schools the opportunity to undertake any minor works including ventilation improvements at school level as a matter of priority. The minor works grant funding provides good flexibility to address issues at local school level and to take a targeted approach. Schools need not apply to the Department for approval to carry out works or to purchase items to improve ventilation. Larger scale works (beyond the level of this enhanced funding) can be addressed under the Department's Emergency Works Scheme.

This circular should be read in conjunction with Circular 0062/2013 "Grant Scheme for Minor Works to National School Properties", with the principles outlined in that circular also applying to post-primary schools and the Department's document "Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices in Schools". Circular 0062/2013 "Grant Scheme for Minor Works to National School Properties" is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/ea522aad554f4e9f9fa8249076f0de93/>

Accessing Technical Advice on Ventilation



In supporting schools in undertaking ventilation improvements, good guidance is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ad236-guidance-on-ventilation-in-schools/> on:

- Practical Steps for the Deployment of Good Ventilation Practices
- Carbon Dioxide Monitors (Your Questions Answered)
- Air Cleaners (Guidance for schools including HEPA Air Cleaner Technical Guidance in Appendix 1, Your Questions Answered)

Given that each school setting is different, individual schools are best placed to decide on the appropriate measures for their school and have flexibility in this regard. For instance, the funding also provides an opportunity for schools to enhance their outdoor learning environments for use as the weather permits. Given that there is no one solution that fits all scenarios, schools may seek specific technical specialist advice/assistance of a Chartered Engineer or Registered Architect to advise on appropriate measures to take for enhancing ventilation. An Engineer or Architect who is currently, or has previously, worked on a project at the school may be well placed to give a school some initial advice on ventilation matters. This may include advice on the appropriate HEPA Air Cleaner unit as an additional measure in conjunction with other methods of ventilation that are available, which is matched to the specific room size, volume and existing ventilation arrangements in circumstances where poor ventilation continues to exist in a particular room/area after the recommended measures in the Practical Steps have been applied. Specialist advice/assistance of a Chartered Engineer or Registered Architect is an important source of support for schools.

The HEPA Air Cleaner Technical Guidance in Appendix 1 in the Room Air Cleaner Guidance document available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ad236-guidance-on-ventilation-in-schools/#room-air-cleaners> is particularly relevant here.

A dedicated team has been established in the Department of Education to support schools that may have concerns about ventilation. The team is also available to contact schools where required, walking through the steps that schools should take to deploy good ventilation practices etc. Where it is not possible for a school to access the expertise of an engineer or architect, and where necessary, a technical assessment to assist the school can be facilitated through the Department.



2. Minor Works Grant Payment Amounts

Primary Schools

Primary Schools – Minor Works Grant 2022/2023

The table below provides an illustrative example of the value of the minor works grant for primary schools of various sizes.

Table 1

School Size (Enrolments)	€5,500 + €18.50 Mainstream + €74 SEN
60	€6,610
100	€7,350
200	€9,200
300	€11,050
400	€12,900
500	€14,750

Calculations in this table based on number of mainstream pupils only.

AND

Enhancements to Minor Works Grant at Primary Level

The table below provides an illustrative example of the value of the enhanced minor works grant for primary schools of various sizes

Table 2

School Size (Enrolments)	Enhanced Grant Amount (Half the value of Standard MWG)
60	€3,305
100	€3,675
200	€4,600
300	€5,525
400	€6,450
500	€7,375



Post-Primary Schools

Post-Primary Schools Minor Works Grant

Table 3

School Size (Enrolments)	Grant Amount
Up to 500	€20,000
501 to 750	€25,000
751 to 1000	€30,000
>1000	€35,000

3. Administration

The grant will be paid directly into the school bank account, or the relevant ETB where applicable. For primary schools, the payment will be made in two tranches: the standard Minor Works Grant paid first (Table 1) and the enhanced funding element subsequently (Table 2). For post-primary Schools, one payment will be made as per Table 3. It is envisaged that all payments will be processed in December 2021.

Applications from post-primary schools in the fee-charging sector will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such applications can be made in the first instance to the FSSU.

As with all exchequer grant-aid, school authorities should maintain detailed records on how funding, provided under this scheme, was spent. If there is any unused funding this should also be recorded.

Where there is insufficient funding to address specific ventilation enhancements schools can address this through the Emergency Works Scheme, which is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/97829-emergency-works-grant-scheme-migration-to-on-line-applications-and-minor-revisions-of-scheme/>

Schools are required to adhere to procurement regulations and appropriately record costs paid from the grant received. A Chartered Engineer or Registered Architect can provide assistance to schools on procurement where required.



The payment of the grant at this time provides the opportunity to schools to undertake any minor works including ventilation improvements as a matter of priority. Schools, on request, must be in a position to provide the Department with a written statement of the expenditure of the grant (which may be subject to compliance checks by the Department) and also a record of any unused funding. The treatment and arrangements in respect of any unused funding will be notified to schools by the end of 2022.

4. Queries

Queries in relation to minor works grant payments should be emailed to:

pbufinmgt@education.gov.ie

Queries in relation to ventilation should be emailed to:

Schools_Ventilation@education.gov.ie

Valerie Kirwan
Principal Officer
Planning & Building Unit
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