



Circular Letter: PBU6/04

To: Primary School Authorities

Grant aid for the purchase of Curricular Equipment and Materials for Science in Primary Schools.

The Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin T.D. has recently announced a further Curricular Grant to enhance the development of the Physical Sciences in primary schools. The grant is allocated on a capitation basis and is calculated on the number of pupils in each primary school as at 30th September 2003. The grant aid is calculated on the basis of €1,000 per school plus €10.00 per pupil. The grant was lodged to the schools' bank account on 8th December 2004 under the system of electronic transfer of grants.

The purpose of the grant is to further support the implementation of the Primary School Curriculum in Physical science and to enable pupils to engage in appropriate scientific investigation.

This grant is available to assist principals, teachers and schools to acquire additional resources that will facilitate children's active engagement in exploring the physical world and provide them with opportunities to develop an investigative approach to problem-solving. This grant provides for additional non-consumable materials for primary science work such as hand lenses, magnifiers, thermometers and measuring equipment. The grant also provides for items to support the designing and making strand, gears, cogs, levers and magnets should also be provided. A full list of suitable materials is provided in the [*Primary School Curriculum: Science Teacher Guidelines \(1999\)*](#).

Boards of Managements are requested to ensure that all monies provided to the school under this grant are made available for the purchase of appropriate resources and materials. Schools must retain a record and receipts of all materials and/or resources purchased with this grant for possible inspection at a future date by officers of this Department.

Any queries regarding details of the lodgement of the grant to school bank accounts should be directed to Central Funds Unit, Department of Education and Science, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Phone No. 090-6483852.

T. Griffin
Principal Officer
School Building Section

December 2004