



A N R O I N N | **DEPARTMENT OF**
OIDEACHAIS | **EDUCATION**
AGUS SCILEANNA | **AND SKILLS**

Circular 0069/2010

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS
SCHOOL BUILDING UNIT

To: The Management Authorities of Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools and the Chief Executive Officers of Vocational Education Committees

Grant Scheme for PE Equipment in Post Primary Schools

A PE Equipment Renewal Grant is being provided to post primary schools to meet PE equipment renewal requirements. The grant is allocated on the basis of €2,000 per school and €20 per capita. The per capita calculation uses the Department's official record of enrolment figures as at 30 September 2009.

Most adults have become increasingly concerned about issues affecting health and well-being and are more aware than ever of the value and pleasure of physical exercise and sport. Physical exercise and sport are essential elements of a balanced lifestyle and develop character, teamwork and leadership. Physical education and sport are essential and complementary elements within the post-primary education system and the sense of achievement, confidence and self-esteem arising from participation is a central part of the education of all pupils in the second level sector. The positive attitudes to physical well-being nurtured in formal post-primary schooling can continue to flourish through regular participation all during life. One of the key purposes of this grant is to further aid the educational arena in which physical education and sport can thrive.

Each school will be aware of its own specific requirement regarding PE equipment and this grant is issued to facilitate schools to address such requirements.

The purchase of PE equipment within the shortest timeframe will allow the current cohort of pupils to have access to the new PE equipment for the maximum period prior to completing their second level education. All purchases must be in compliance with public procurement guidelines and adequate records of expenditure maintained. Schools should ensure that the equipment purchased is suitable for their pupils' use and suppliers should certify, where appropriate, that it meets the relevant Irish, European or British standard. Some guidance on school PE equipment is available on the Department's website at www.education.ie under School Planning/Building, Loose Furniture and Equipment Lists and under Technical Guidance/Technical Guidance Documents TGD-023.

As schools should continue to be vigilant in particular in respect of to any health and safety issues in relation to goalposts in schools, a copy of the National Standards Authority of Ireland instrument "Playing Field Equipment – Goals" is included with this circular and should be retained by schools for consultation and appropriate action as circumstances dictate.

Maria Grogan
Principal Officer
School Building Unit
Tullamore
Co Offaly

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Enquiries about this Circular should be referred to:

School Building Unit, Department of Education and Science, Portlaoise Road,
Tullamore, Co Offaly

Telephone 057-9325379 Fax 057-9324411 Web: www.education.ie