

Rannán Airgeadas na Scoileanna  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna  
Corn a Madadh  
Baile Átha Luain  
Co. na hIarmhí  
N37 X659



Schools Division Financial  
Department Education and Skills  
Cornamaddy  
Athlone  
Co. Westmeath  
N37 X659

**Circular 0016/2016**

## **To: Management Authorities of Second-Level Schools**

1. Under the Remote Area Boarding Grant scheme, provision exists for the payment of grants in respect of pupils whose normal place of residence is outside the range of public transport services to a school providing suitable free second-level education. This scheme of grants was introduced in conjunction with the free post-primary education scheme in the 1967/68 school year.
2. The purpose of the scheme is to give pupils who are educationally disadvantaged because of their remoteness from schools an opportunity to attend school on the same basis as other pupils not so disadvantaged.
3. Under the terms of the scheme, a second-level school is a school which is recognised by the Department for the purpose of providing the prescribed certificate courses, which enters its students for the State examinations and is subject to inspection by the Department.
4. To qualify for a boarding grant, an applicant: –
  - must be normally resident in the State; and
  - must be resident 4.8 km or more from a second-level school where suitable free second-level education is available and more than 3.2 km from a pick-up point on a transport service to such a school; and
  - must be unable to obtain a place in a suitable second-level school within 25 km of his/her normal place of residence & should provide written confirmation of same; and
  - must be proposing to attend a second level school providing free second-level education

Pupil's resident on off shore islands that do not have a school providing suitable free second level education may also qualify for assistance under the scheme.

For pupil's requiring an Irish medium education the outlined criteria will be applied to the nearest second level school providing instruction through Irish.

5. The curriculum choices provided by a school (including the provision or otherwise of transition year) within 25 km of the applicant's normal place of residence will not be a factor in the determination of eligibility for the award of a grant.

6. The maximum grant payable under the scheme from the commencement of the 2015/16 school year may not exceed €4,947 per pupil per annum. The grant is payable after each school term to the school or parent/guardian, whichever is appropriate, subject to verification by the school that the pupil has been in full-time attendance for the period concerned and a statement of the annual maintenance charge for the boarding or lodging fees, whichever is applicable, is provided.
7. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.
8. In this Circular the term Management authorities refers to Boards of Management, Manager and Education Training Boards, as appropriate.
9. Application for children starting in September of a school year should be sent in on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> April of that year as there is no guarantee that applications received after this time will be processed by the September.
10. Applications should be forwarded to Schools Division, Remote Area Boarding Grant, Department of Education & Skills, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 X659.

Hubert Loftus  
Principal Officer  
Schools Division Financial

February 2016

**POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION  
REMOTE AREA BOARDING GRANT SCHEME**

This form, properly completed, should be forwarded to Schools Division, Remote Area Boarding Grant, Department of Education and Skills, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 X659.

1. Name(s) of pupil(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name and location of nearest post-primary school/gaelcholaiste \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Distance of pupil's residence from this school \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest pick-up point on transport route to nearest post-primary school/gaelcholaiste

Distance of pupil's residence from this point \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of school which pupils proposes to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Boarding/lodging fee payable for school year 2015/16 \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above details are correct and complete.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Block Capitals \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**