An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige
Department of
Education and Youth

Information Note TC/IN 0002/2026

To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools and
The Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards

Temporary changes to the Career Break Scheme for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools - 2026/27 School Year

1. Introduction

1.1 In response to issues raised in relation to teacher supply, certain restrictions imposed in the Career Break Scheme have been suspended for the past number of school years. This Information Note advises that these restrictions are also suspended for the 2026/27 school year, effective from the date of this Information Note.

1.2 A teacher who is on a Career Break may now be employed, in a substitute capacity only, without the restrictions imposed in the Career Break Scheme as contained in Chapter 7 (Paragraph 8.1) of Circular 54/2019. The employment of a teacher on Career Break to carry out substitute work can also include part-time hours.

2. Pay Arrangements

2.1 A teacher who is availing of a Career Break and is employed in a substitute capacity will be paid at the same rate as a regular substitute.

3. Circulation of Information Note

3.1 Please ensure this Information Note is circulated to all members of the Board of Management/Education and Training Boards and its contents are brought to the attention of all teachers in your employment, including those on leave of absence.

3.2 This Information Note replaces Information Note TC/IN 0005/2025.

3.3 The Information Note can be accessed on the Department's website at www.gov.ie.

James Walsh
Principal Officer
Teacher/SNA Terms & Conditions Section

2nd September 2026