



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children



National Parents Council Primary **Annual Review 2014**



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Registered Name

National Parents Council – Primary

Directors

Robert Grier (Chairperson)
 Thomas Casey
 James Connors
 Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan
 Maurice Dockrell
 Sheila Donohoe
 Teresa Doyle
 Breid Greene
 Aisling Lawton
 Mary Lillis
 Deirdre O'Donovan
 Sean O'Riordan
 Tara Sherlock

Company Secretary

Áine Lynch

Registered Office

12 Marlborough Court
 Marlborough Street
 Dublin 1

Auditor

KPMG
 Chartered Accountants
 1 Stokes Place
 St. Stephen's Green
 Dublin 2

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
 Walkinstown
 Dublin 12

Solicitors

Arthur Cox Solicitors
 Earlsfort Centre
 Earlsfort Terrace
 Dublin 2

MacGeehin Toale
 10 Prospect Road
 Glasnevin
 Dublin 9

Charity reference number

CHY 10547

Registered number

258148

Overview of National Parents Council Primary

OUR VISION

NPC want to see an Ireland where **every** child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

OUR MISSION

NPC exists to ensure that all parents are supported and empowered to become effective partners in their children's education. NPC will work to increase the capacity and capability of the primary education sector, to achieve true partnership and deliver better outcomes for all children.

VALUES

NPC knows that when parents and schools work together, children do better. Therefore NPC believes that:

- Parents must be actively engaged in the education of their children.
- Parent involvement in children's education must be supported by the attitudes, beliefs and practices of all members of the school and broader education community.
- Parents should be viewed as partners in facilitating children's learning and should be supported in this role by the school and broader education community.
- Parents should be viewed as full partners in the decisions that affect their children and their family.
- Parents should be welcome in the school, and their support and assistance should be sought as a valuable resource to support children's education in the school.
- All communication and dialogue with parents must be regular, open, two-way and meaningful.

Chairman's Report



It is my privilege, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to present the 2014 Annual Review of the National Parents Council Primary (NPC). I am pleased to report it has been another year of significant progress throughout the organisation, with considerable achievements at every level. This is only made possible by the work of dedicated staff and volunteers led by a strong management team and Board of Directors. Together, they ensure that we keep up the high quality of our services while always looking for innovative ways to support and represent parents.

Whilst NPC has always taken its Corporate Governance responsibilities seriously, with renewed public attention and sector initiatives, the NPC Board of Directors spent considerable efforts in its commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance during 2014. The Board and management of NPC worked to ensure that our governance arrangements reflect the present and future needs of the evolving organisation. As a registered charity and in keeping with best practice for the sector, the Board made the decision to implement the Voluntary Governance Code for charitable and voluntary organisations. Although many of the Code's provisions are already in place, the Board and CEO are committed to its full implementation during 2015.

During 2014, the Board met on ten occasions. The Board is comprised of twelve members who have been elected from the NPC Assembly and are parents of children in Primary school and one member who was co-opted onto the Board for their specific skills and experience as provided for in the NPC's Articles of Association. The co-opted Director was appointed by the 12 Directors to serve as Chairman of the Board. The Board has four committees which all operate to terms of reference that are approved

by the Board, and each committee's Chairperson has been formally elected and reports to the Board. The Board committees are: Audit, Governance, Communications and Media strategy and Arbitration. The Board delegates the day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive as well as having certain matters reserved for its decision. The Chief Executive, attends the Board and committee meetings in an attendance capacity. As part of the work of the Audit committee in 2014 an external advisor was invited to attend the committee meetings to provide additional expertise to the organisation regarding its risk management process. Risk management is now an integrated on-going process within NPC and adds value and reassurance to the work of the organisation.

Our Supporting Parents, Supporting Children strategy has guided the organisation in its work throughout 2014 and focuses on ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Board of NPC is committed to providing a range of quality supports and services to parents in the most innovative and accessible means available. How parents support their child is the most important determining factor of how well a child will do in their educational life. In 2015 NPC will continue to build on the work outlined in this report, to ensure parents are in the best position to support their children through the many facets of primary education.

Again I would like to acknowledge the members of the Board who provide their own particular expertise in guiding the organisation through another year of growth and development.

Robert Grier
Chairman

Chief Executive Officer's Report



Supporting Parents Supporting Children, NPC's Strategic plan, continued to guide the activities and direction of NPC's work throughout 2014. The year again was a very busy one with the Helpline answering over 1,660 calls and over 8,000 parents attending training sessions all around the country. The anti-bullying training continued as the most sought after training in 2014 with half of those attending an NPC training event attending the anti-bullying session.

The level of engagement by parents in our services continues to indicate that NPC supports are valued and relevant to parents of primary school children. NPC volunteers also continued to support parents by co-ordinating and running the network of NPC County Branches, through engaging in the Assembly debates and policy formation, and through the strong Governance of NPC by the Board of Directors.

NPC continues to seek new opportunities to support parents and in 2014 NPC held its first national conference for parents of children with special education needs. The conference, which enjoyed a capacity attendance, had speakers from the National Council for Special Education and the Department of Education and Skills presenting on a new pilot model for allocating teaching resources for students with special education needs. Also on the day parents heard from experts on practical ways that they could use to support their children's learning at home and with the school.

In 2014 NPC developed its first online training support for parents "Supporting your child to build healthy friendships

and relationships". This session has been developed to compliment the training sessions that NPC provides to parents in schools and also to offer support to those parents who are unable to attend the face to face training.

A significant achievement for NPC in 2014 was the implementation of part of the strategic plan which relates to NPC's commitment to hearing children's voices on issues relating to their experiences and hopes regarding primary education. We did this through conducting a survey with children on their views and experiences of lunchtime in school. We received a staggering 3,493 responses from children to the survey over a two week period. Quite clearly primary school children want to be given an opportunity to be consulted on their experiences and NPC plan to continue and build on this work into the future.

2014 also saw some significant developments in the education sector in which NPC played its part. NPC made a number of submissions on key educational issues on behalf of parents. These included representations on the digital strategy for schools, Internet content governance, hunger prevention in schools and the Visiting Teachers Service for Children with Hearing and Visual Impairment.

In closing I would like to thank the Chairman and the Board for their continued work and support in leading the organisation and I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their enormous efforts during 2014.

Áine Lynch

Chief Executive



Special Interest Groups

The **Special Educational Needs Group** represents parents of children with Special Educational Needs. The group met three times during 2014. During the year the group discussed the educational provision for children with Autism/Autism Spectrum Disorder, personal experiences of their children in special schools, and were consulted on the content and structure of the up coming NPC conference for parents of children with special educational needs.

The **Minority Religion Group** represents parents of children belonging to a religious minority. The group met three times in 2014. The topics that they discussed were issues regarding inclusion and patronage. The group also discussed the membership of their group and how they could promote the work they were doing to other parents around the country.

The **Migrant Parent Group** represents parents of children from the migrant community. The group met three times in 2014. The topics that they discussed were how schools could be more inclusive of international parents and also how they could promote the work of their group to increase its membership.

The **Traveller Parent Group** represents the interest of parents of children belonging to the Travelling community. The group met three times in 2014 and planned to consult with Traveller parents about parental involvement in their schools.

The **Irish Medium Schools Group** represents parents of children who are educated through the medium of Irish. In 2014 the group met three times and their main area of discussion was the issue of parents' involvement in their children's education when the child is being educated through the medium of Irish. They looked at how some Gaelscoileanna communicate with parents and conduct their meetings through Irish only and the challenges this can present for some parents.



Helpline

The Helpline Officers answered a total of 1656 calls and emails in 2014, altogether dealing with 1777 different issues; which include the Parents' Association AGM, Board of Management, Fundraising, Insurance, Roles and Rules of the Parents' Association, Voluntary Contribution and training amongst many other issues.

It was a busy year, with a large number of parents calling the Helpline in relation to complaints and the complaints system in general in schools. In 2014 there was a rise in the number of calls to the Helpline where parents expressed dissatisfaction with how schools had handled their complaint and concern by some parents regarding the process used to manage their complaint vis a vis the complaints policy in their school.

There were a number of calls in relation to the clarification of the roles of the Parents' Association in the school

community and the challenges they had experienced in the relationship between the Parents' Association and their Principal/ Board of Management. The main causes of these difficulties are often attributed to issues relating to Fundraising.

There still remains a concern among parents in relation to the Anti-Bullying Procedure and its implementation; as highlighted by many of the issues dealt with on the helpline. There is also an increase in requests for training by the Parents' Associations to assist them in their role in their school.

The Helpline Officers continued to disseminate information and articles of interest to parents through the NPC website. Information compiled from calls to the Helpline also informed various submissions to the Department of Education and Skills throughout the year.

Helpline statistics 2014

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2014
---------------------	---

BULLYING

Bullying involving a child	118
Bullying involving a teacher	20
Bullying involving a principal	7
Principal/Board of Management not implementing Anti-Bullying policy	6
Cyberbullying	10
Total	161

ISSUE

Supervision	19
Complaints Procedure	82
Homework	3
Code of Behaviour	36
Split Classes	13
Uniforms	11
Class Size	5
Enrolment	37
Curriculum	31
Time in school	9
Standardised Tests	6
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	3
Health and Safety	37
Separated Parents	4
Retention	4
Book Rental Schemes	10
First Holy Communion	4
School Transport	4
School Closures	2
Voluntary Contribution	3
Child Abuse	3
Total	326

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2014
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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

General	26
Complaints	34
Total	60

PARENT ASSOCIATION

Setting up	31
Disputes	34
Financial issues	70
NPC Membership	88
Rules/Roles	176
Information	355
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	11
Training	122
Insurance	23
Total	910

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs General	52
Assessment	13
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	2
Access to school	3
Professional resources	28
Total	98
Other	101

Total	1656
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Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2014. The Training and Development Programme is a national programme of training, development and support for parents. The purpose is to support and empower parents to play an active part in their children's education at every level.

Aims and Objectives

The Training and Development Programme supports parents to work in positive partnership with the school, and it seeks to empower parents in their role as the primary educators of their children and encourages a positive role for parents as part of the school community.

Training Programmes

NPC had seven training programmes on offer to parents countrywide during 2014.

Anti Bullying Training was developed by National Parents Council Primary and National Parents Council Post Primary for parents of primary and post primary children. The session enabled parents to support their children regarding issues of bullying and also informed them about the new Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools.

The training was delivered in both primary and post primary schools.

The training was funded by the Department of Education and Skills under the Anti Bullying Action Plan.

Parents' Association / Parental Involvement Training gave information and guidance to new and established Parents' Associations. The aim of the session was to inform Parents' Associations as to their role as part of the whole school community and to give parents an understanding of the importance of parental involvement in the home and in the school. It created an understanding of the role of a Parents' Association and facilitated groups in developing a positive and beneficial partnership in the school as a community. This training was open to all partners in education, parents, principals, teachers and members of school Boards of Management.

NPC now deliver three sessions of Parents' Association Training, an information session for schools who wish to set up a Parents' Association, a training session which informs the Parents' Association on positive parental involvement in the home and in the school and a session for the whole school community to support parental engagement in the home and in the school as prescribed in the Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life Strategy.

Board of Management Training was delivered to Boards of Managements in individual schools and also to Boards in clusters of schools. The sessions delivered primarily concentrated on the role and function of the Board of Management as a corporate entity.

Internet Safety Training continues to be a popular programme. The demand for this training grows year on year. The training gave parents the skills to engage with their children's online lives. The sessions focus on strategies for both improving communication between parents and children and negotiating boundaries to their children's internet use. Through the training parents were informed on how young people use the Internet, what attracts them to the internet, and gained an insight into children's main worries and concerns when online.

Parenting – Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships is offered in two separate programmes. Parents were able to attend an information session which informed them about the Social Personal Health Education curriculum or the more detailed parenting sessions which also explored relationship building and positive communication.

Transition from Primary to Post Primary Training was provided for parents whose children were about to make, or had made, the transition from primary to secondary education. It supported parents with their child's transition and gave them useful information on subject choices and an insight into the post primary education system.

Whole School Evaluation (WSE) Training was developed in partnership with the Inspectorate. This programme provides information and support for parents on the WSE process. WSE is a process of external evaluation of the work of a school, carried out by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills. The NPC WSE training programme enables parents to understand what a Whole School Evaluation is, the role of parents in their school's WSE, how the WSE is carried out and how it is managed. This programme is available to parents, teachers, principals and Board members in individual schools countrywide.

TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2014

Type of Training	Number of Sessions Delivered	Number of Attendees
Parent Association Training	150	1,457
Board of Management	5	161
Transition from Primary to Post Primary	49	836
Internet Safety	42	632
Parenting Supporting yourchild to build healthy friendships and relationships	Information Sessions 7	126
	Training Programme 18	489
Whole School Evaluation	7	36
Anti Bullying Training	199	4,300
Overall Totals	477	8,037

Partnership Schools Ireland

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) follows an evidence based programme which originated in the USA. The programme is primarily the work of Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director of the Centre on School, Family and Community Partnerships for John Hopkins University in Baltimore.

PSI supports schools to work in partnership with parents, pupils and community representatives in delivering better outcomes for children across curriculum, behavioural and school environment goals. The project is underpinned by the belief that children will do better when the school, parents, community and the children work together on shared planning and goal setting and shared work on delivering change.

In Ireland, the model is being managed jointly by a management team from the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) and the National Parents Council Primary. The programme was piloted in 2013 in Ireland in three schools and in 2014 five additional schools became involved.

The Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn launched Partnership Schools Ireland at NPC's Education Conference in June 2014.



Communication with Parents

Website

The NPC website www.npc.ie aims to provide parents with information regarding primary education.

The NPC website is our main communication hub and shows up to date newsfeeds on issues of interest to parents of primary school children.

A new section 'On your behalf' was created in 2014 and highlights what NPC has been doing on behalf of parents during the year, what meetings were attended, where NPC made representation and submissions on behalf of parents.

During 2014 the website had 33,469 users, 66.6% of whom were new to the site. 151,656 pages were viewed. The most frequently viewed pages included the home page, the training pages, particularly training on *Anti Bullying, Parenting: supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships* and *Parental Involvement training*, the NPC noticeboard, information on Parents' Associations and the County Branch pages.

Surveys

NPC gives parents the opportunity to share their views with NPC regarding primary education issues by way of surveys promoted on the website and circulated to members.

The results of the surveys form the basis of submissions to the Department of Education and Skills and other relevant organisations.

In 2014 we surveyed parents on the following:

- School Uniforms
- Internet Content Governance
- Schoolbook Rental Schemes

Also in line with our Strategic Plan 2013–2017, where NPC made a commitment to hearing children's voices on issues relating to their experiences and hopes regarding primary education, in 2014 NPC surveyed children asking them to express their opinions around the issue of

- Lunchtime in school.

Survey Title	Number of Responses
School Uniforms - Reducing cost to parents	976
Internet Content Governance	463
School Book Rental Schemes	1,590
Lunchtime in School Children's survey	3,493
Total responses to NPC surveys	6,522

County Branch

NPC has a network of County Branches throughout the country, where NPC members come together at a local level to meet and discuss issues which are relevant to their children in primary school.

In 2014 NPC had County Branches in Cavan, Clare, Cork East, Cork West, Dublin North, Dublin North West, Dublin South, Dublin South West, Kildare, Laois, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Sligo, Tipperary and Wexford and in 2014 NPC was delighted to establish a new Branch in County Donegal.

NPC County Branch committee members continued to reach out to Parents' Associations within their counties. Information evenings and consultation sessions were arranged by the county committees for parents and Parents' Associations and were provided by the NPC panel of Trainers and the NPC CEO on topics such as:

- Parental Involvement in Children's Education
- Internet Safety
- Anti Bullying
- Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary School
- National Parents Council Primary.

External speakers from relevant organisations were also enlisted on topics such as:

- Drug awareness
- Dyslexia
- Nutrition and Health – healthy options for children's lunchboxes
- Supporting children through their primary school years
- Family Law

A number of NPC County Branch committee members visited local schools to provide information on NPC and on Parents' Associations; others were given assistance locally by phone.

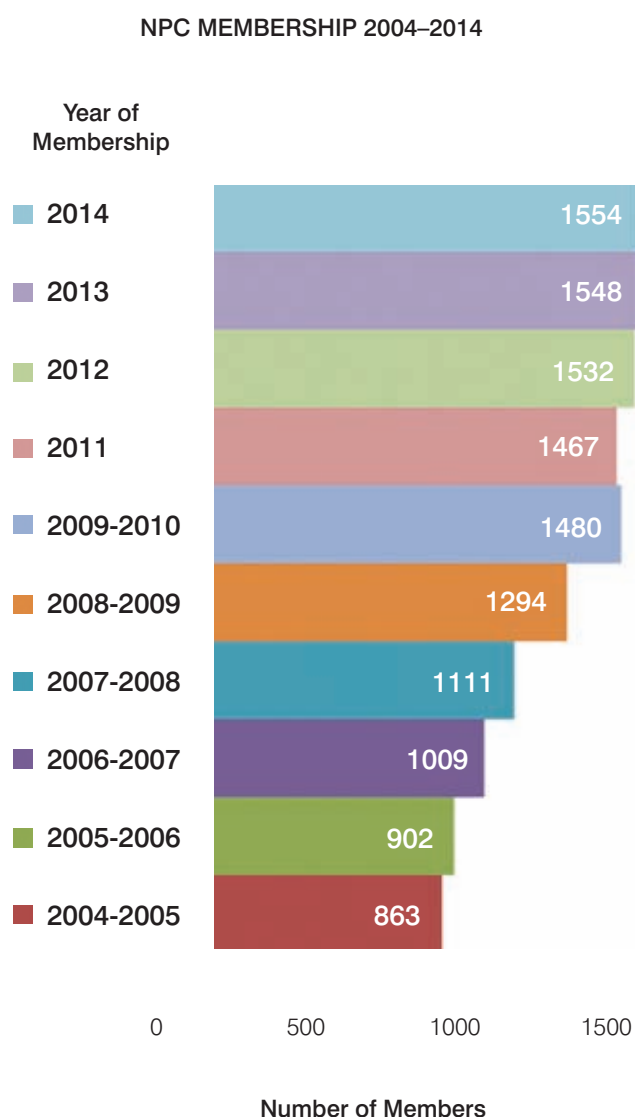
In 2014, in line with its strategic plan, NPC recruited a full time Volunteer Coordinator in order to further the organisation's plans to utilise volunteer efforts within NPC to achieve its Mission, Vision and Objectives and to recognise the added value which volunteers bring to NPC.



Membership

Membership of National Parents Council Primary consists of affiliated Parent Associations and individual Associate Members.

The graph below indicates the growing trend in membership over the last 10 years.



The table below shows the membership for each county during 2014.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2014

County	Number of Members
Carlow	23
Cavan	49
Clare	31
Cork East	92
Cork West	127
Donegal	54
Dublin North	66
Dublin NW	38
Dublin South	62
Dublin SW	43
Galway	77
Kerry	68
Kildare	65
Kilkenny	38
Laois	35
Leitrim	19
Limerick	79
Longford	22
Louth	53
Mayo	37
Meath	64
Monaghan	34
Offaly	23
Roscommon	32
Sligo	34
Tipperary	102
Waterford	33
Westmeath	33
Wexford	68
Wicklow	42
Associates	11
Total	1554



Assembly

The NPC Assembly is a vibrant and exciting part of NPC and represents a bridge between members and the organisational structures.

The Assembly is the policy developing body within NPC and is comprised of a maximum of two representatives from each County Branch and one representative from each of the NPC Special Interest Groups.

During 2014, a review of the NPC Assembly was carried out in line with the Strategic Plan objective to *continue to strengthen the voice of parents on issues affecting parents and children in primary education through the continued work of the NPC Assembly*. We contacted past and present Assembly members in order to review the effectiveness of the operation of the NPC Assembly. Following on from this a focus group of Assembly members will meet in 2015 to further this objective.

The Assembly met three times in 2014 to allow members to fully engage in educational issues of importance. This means that when NPC speaks on behalf of parents it can do so knowing that the issues have been considered and debated by the Assembly on behalf of NPC members.

On the 15th of February, the Assembly looked at the issue of a **Digital Strategy for Schools** and heard presentations from Brian O'Neill, Head of the School of Media at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and Simon Grehan, Webwise Project Coordinator, PDST Technology in Education. The outcome of this consultation informed a submission to the Department of Education and Skills who sought the views of interested parties on the role of ICT in teaching and learning in primary and post primary schools.

The second meeting of the year took place on the 22nd of March to review and revise existing NPC policies in order to update the NPC policy document '**Education for Tomorrow the Parents' Vision**'.

The final meeting of the 2014 Assembly on the 28th of June saw the Assembly review NPC's policy regarding **Children's Rights**. The Assembly also provided nominations to the AGM for the NPC Board.



Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2014

I was delighted to be re-elected as Chairperson of NPC's Audit Committee. I would like to thank the members of the committee, NPC Chairman Robert Grier, Frank Ward, Sean O'Riordan, Aisling Lawton, Dermot O'Riordan (external advisor to the committee) together with Áine Lynch and the staff of NPC for their work during the year.

I am happy to report that NPC finances remained healthy in 2014 and the following pages set out a summary of the figures. Full detailed accounts for the year ended December 31st 2014 have been issued to all NPC members and are also available on request.

Tara Sherlock

Chairperson of the Audit Committee

NATIONAL PARENTS COUNCIL – PRIMARY

(Company Limited by Guarantee - without Share Capital)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors submit their report together with the audited financial statements of the company (or the “Council”) for the year ended 31 December 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COUNCIL

The names of those who served as directors during the period are listed on **page 1**.

On 27 September 2014, Miriam Meredith, Kevin O'Byrne, Mary O'Mahony and Frank Ward resigned as directors of the company.

On 27 September 2014, Aisling Lawton, Sheila O'Donohoe and Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan were appointed as directors of the company.

On 28 September 2014, Breid Greene was appointed as a director of the company.

Day to day running of the Council is managed by the Chief Executive Áine Lynch.

Details of the Council's bankers, solicitors and auditor are given on **page 1**.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital incorporated in the Republic of Ireland under the Companies Acts 2014 on 10 December 1999. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1).

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the entity and is governed under its Articles of Association and managed by a board of Directors.

The company has been granted charitable status under Section 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

Recruitment and appointment of the Board

In accordance with the Articles of Association one third of the directors in office must retire each year. If the number of directors is not divisible by three, then the lowest whole number nearest one-third shall retire.

The Directors appointed in general meeting may co-opt a further two Directors for a term of up to three years on such terms and subject to such conditions as the Board may determine and such co-opted Directors shall be eligible for re-appointment at the expiry of their term of office.

The Assembly is required to nominate persons for election to the office of Director to fill the vacancies created by the operation of Article 34(1) and Article 38 (the “Vacancies”) and the Full Members are entitled to fill the Vacancies by electing such persons as have been so nominated.

The Board is committed to achieving high standards of governance. Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the charity. Expenses are reimbursed where claimed. There have been no contracts or arrangements entered into during the financial year in which a board member was materially interested.

All new Board members receive induction training and induction papers on commencing their appointment to the Board.

Organisational structure

The Board of National Parents Council-Primary is permitted to have a maximum number of Directors of fourteen: up to twelve of whom may be elected by the Full Members (affiliated parents associations) on the nomination of the Assembly and up to two of whom may be co-opted by the Board of Directors.

The Board are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the National Parents Council Primary. This is in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the National Parents Council Primary Governing Handbook. At present the Board has thirteen members, twelve appointed in general meeting and one co-opted by the appointed Directors. They met ten times during 2014.

Audit Committee

As part of the Board's plans to fulfil its objectives in this area it has constituted an audit committee to ensure an effective review and monitoring of financial risks, reliable management and financial reporting, compliance with laws and regulations and the maintenance of an effective and efficient audit.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive of the Council reports to the Board of Directors. The Board provides leadership and strategic management, developing and furthering the aims and objectives of the organisation and delegates certain duties and responsibilities to the CEO. This includes implementation of the strategic plan, leading and managing the Council's staff members, programmes, projects, finances and all other administrative aspects so that the Council's ongoing mission, vision and objectives are fulfilled within the context of the Council's values, as approved by the Board of Directors and membership.

Key risks

The key risks facing the company are that its core projects and activities are reliant on continued government funding. The directors confirm that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the company.

Objectives and activities

The principal activities of the Council are to act as a nationwide organisation representing parents of children attending early and primary education.

National Parents Council - Primary was established to contribute to the advancement of the early education and primary education of all children, in order to improve and enrich the education of each child and to support the involvement of parents in all stages of education.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The company reported an operating surplus of €83,835 in the year (2013: *surplus of €32,326*).

The principal sources of funding received by the Council are from funding grants from the Department of Education and Skills and the Health Service Executive. The Council also receives funds from its membership subscriptions and publication sales.

The Board has examined the company requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the company should amount to between three and six months of average expenditure.

BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

The directors are responsible for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept by the company as required under Section 281 of the Companies Act 2014.

The directors believe that they have complied with this requirement by providing adequate resources to maintain proper accounting records including the appointment of personnel with appropriate experience and expertise. The books and records of the company are maintained at 12 Marlborough Court, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

No events have occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date which requires disclosure in the financial statements.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The National Parents Council's Strategic Plan; "Supporting Parents; Supporting Children" will shape the plans and direction for the organisation until 2017.

During the period the council voluntarily adopted the reporting requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) 2005.

AUDITOR

In accordance with Section 383 of the Companies Act 2014, the auditor, KPMG, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

Robert Grier
Director

Tara Sherlock
Director

26 June 2015
Date

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company and of its profit or loss for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;-

- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' Report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Robert Grier
Director

Tara Sherlock
Director

26 June 2015
Date

NOTES: FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Income accounting

* **Restricted funds** represent monies received which can only be used for particular purposes specified by the provider of such funds. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Council.

** **Unrestricted funds** are available for general use at the discretion of the Council in furtherance of its general objectives.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2014

	*Restricted funds 2014	**Unrestricted funds 2014	Total funds 2014	Total funds 2013
	€	€	€	€
Incoming resources				
- Income from sponsoring bodies	227,284	326,000	553,284	526,722
- Membership fees	-	99,501	99,501	97,909
- Course fees	-	12,605	12,605	13,085
- Publication sales	-	740	740	541
- Investment income	-	2,390	2,390	277
- Other income	-	2,488	2,488	93
Total Incoming Resources	227,284	443,724	671,008	638,627
Resources expended				
Council related activities	(227,284)	(315,490)	(542,774)	(542,689)
Governance costs	-	(44,399)	(44,399)	(63,612)
Expenditure	(227,284)	(359,889)	(587,173)	(606,301)
Net surplus from ordinary activities	-	83,835	83,835	32,326
Total funds brought forward	-	227,239	227,239	194,913
Total funds carried forward	-	311,074	311,074	227,239

There are no other gains or losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities and thus a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All income and expenditure in the year is derived from continuing activities.

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier
Director

Tara Sherlock
Director

26 June 2015
Date

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2014

	31 December 2014 €	31 December 2013 €
Fixed assets		
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	7,589	11,999
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	339,972	295,433
Debtors and prepayments	16,513	9,398
	356,485	304,831
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(48,697)	(82,140)
Net current assets	307,788	222,691
Total assets less current liabilities	315,377	234,690
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(4,303)	(7,451)
Net assets	311,074	227,239
Funded by:		
** Unrestricted funds	311,074	227,239
Accumulated surplus	311,074	227,239

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier
Director

Tara Sherlock
Director

26 June 2015
Date

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2014

Robert Grier
Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 10/10
Expenses €762.34

Deirdre O'Donovan

Vice Chairperson since 7/11/2014
Board meeting attendance 9/10
Expenses €140.83

Tommy Casey

Board meeting attendance 6/10
Expenses €0

James Connors

Board meeting attendance 10/10
Expenses €833.14

Mary Lillis

Board meeting attendance 9/10
Expenses €1,489.28

Sean O'Riordan

Board meeting attendance 6/10
Expenses €1,674.17

Tara Sherlock

Board meeting attendance 7/10
Expenses €481.36

Maurice Dockrell

Board meeting attendance 6/10
Expenses €0

Terri Doyle

Board meeting attendance 9/10
Expenses €1,708.06

Aisling Lawton elected 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 2/2
Expenses €0

Sheila Donohoe elected 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 2/2
Expenses €489.48

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan elected 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 2/2
Expenses €0

Breid Greene elected 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 2/2
Expenses €182.32

Miriam Meredith to 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 7/8
Expenses €473.92

Kevin O'Byrne to 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 7/8
Expenses €0

Mary O'Mahony

Vice Chairperson to 27.9.2014
Board meeting attendance 8/8
Expenses €1,221.47

Frank Ward to 27.9.2014

Board meeting attendance 7/8
Expenses €0

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014

Audit Committee

- Tara Sherlock (Chairperson) 5/5
- Sean O'Riordan 2/5
- Frank Ward 5/5
- Robert Grier 3/5
- Dermot O'Riordan (external expert) 4/5
- Aisling Lawton

**Communications & Media
Strategy Committee**

- Miriam Meredith (Chairperson to 27.9.2014) 3/3
- Maurice Dockrell (Chairperson since 7.11.2014) 2/3
- Mary O'Mahony 3/3
- Tommy Casey 1/3

**HR/Governance
Committee**

- Mary Lillis (Chairperson to 27.9.2014) 4/4
- Breid Greene (Chairperson since 7.11.2014)
- James Connors 4/4
- Terri Doyle 4/4
- Robert Grier 4/4

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS DURING 2014

Cavan	Dublin South	Tipperary
Sheila Donohoe	Eleanor McGovern	Elizabeth Adams McPherson
Catherine White Byrne	Kildare	Breid Greene
Clare	Louise O'Connor	Irish Medium Schools Group
Monika Zedlitz	Siobhán Tighe	Aisling Lawton
Maeve McNamara	Laois	Maitiú Ó Donnabháin
Cork East	Margaret Greene	Integrated Education Group
Kevin T Finn	Miriam Meredith	Aishling Smith
Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan	Longford	Regina Grant
Mary O'Mahony	Mary Lillis	Minority Religion Group
Tom Evans	Michael Nash	Marianne Henry
Cork West	Louth	Elizabeth Bracken
Sean O'Riordan	Wendy Geraghty	Special Education Group
Liam Doherty	Sarah Louise Cowley	Damian Murray
Dublin NW		Traveller Parent Group
Frank Ward		Kathleen McDonnell

STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Deirdre Sullivan	Training & Development Officer
Carmel Grahame	Financial Administrator
Carmel O'Shea	Helpline Officer
Nnenna Ibezim	Helpline Officer (commenced 6.1.2014)
Karl O'Reilly	Volunteer Coordinator (commenced 22.9.2014)
Michelle Davern	Administrative Officer
Sharon Hopkins	Administrator
Liz Sheehan	Administrator
David Perkins	JobBridge Intern (commenced 1.9.2014)
Jelena Pisareva	Office Cleaner



If you would like to contact us...

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