



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children





Contents

	Page
2019 – Our Year in Review	2
Overview of National Parents Council Primary	4
Chairperson's Report	5
Chief Executive Officer's Report	6
Early Years	7
Helpline	8
Helpline Statistics 2019	9
Training and Development	10
Partnership Schools Ireland	13
Communicating with Parents and Children	14
Volunteering	16
Membership	17
Regional Assemblies	18
Financial Report	19
Directors' Report	20
Directors Who Served During 2019	27
Board Sub-Committee Members 2019	27
NPC Staff	28

Registered Name
National Parents Council – Primary

Directors
Laurence Keaveney (Chairperson)
(appointed 29.03.19)
Robert Grier (retired 29.03.19)
Catherine White Byrne (retired 05.10.19)
Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan (retired 05.10.19)
Massimiliano Boccalari (appointed 05.10.19)
Miriam Brandt
Pirooz Daneshmandi
Hilary Lawrence
Aisling Lawton
Damian Murray
Derek O'Leary (appointed 05.10.19)
Dermot O'Riordan
Patrick Ryan

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

Charity Reference Number
CHY 10547

Registered Charity Number
20027032

Companies Registration Number
258148

2019

Our Year in Review



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

Helpline

3,010

calls & emails to NPC Helpline

01 8874477



Training

8,013

PEOPLE ATTENDED
NPC TRAINING
EVENTS

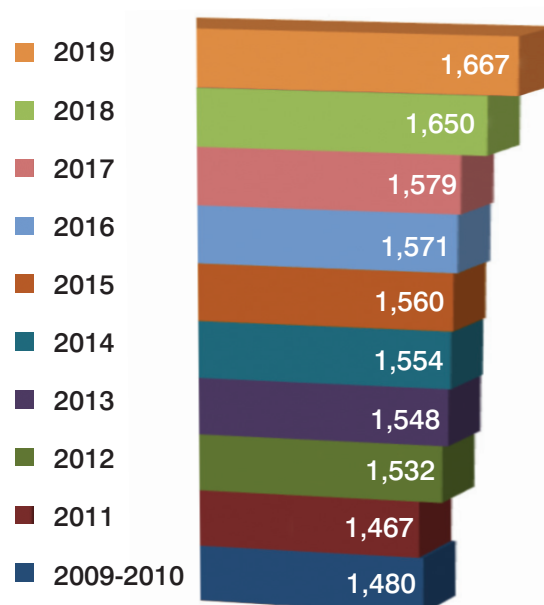
542

IN
SESSIONS AROUND
THE COUNTRY

Membership



NPC MEMBERSHIP 2009–2019

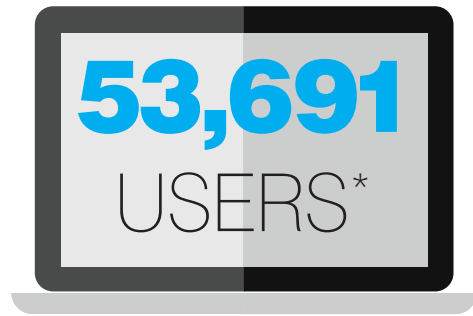


Number of Members

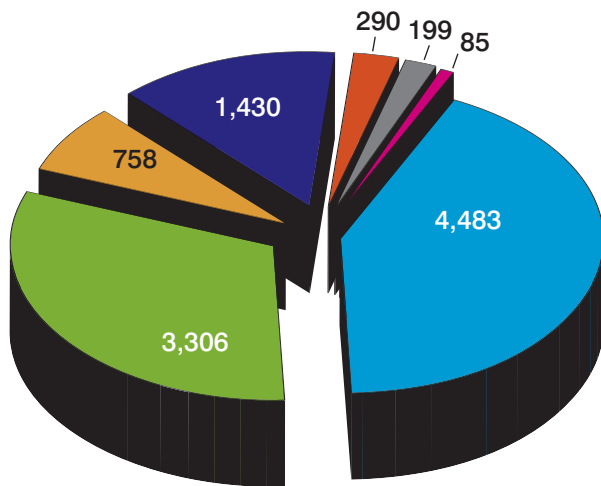
Communications

* Users that have accessed information on

www.npc.ie



NPC Surveys 2019



■ You and your child in their Early Years Learning (471 in total with 2018)

■ Exemption from the study of Irish in school

■ Review of the RSE Curriculum

■ NPC Small schools survey

■ You and your child's school age childcare

■ Your childcare (children's survey)

■ Childminding Action Plan

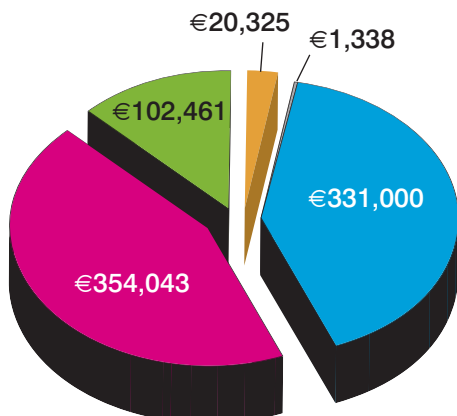


10,551

Responses were received to NPC Surveys

Finances

INCOME



■ Department of Education & Skills funding grant

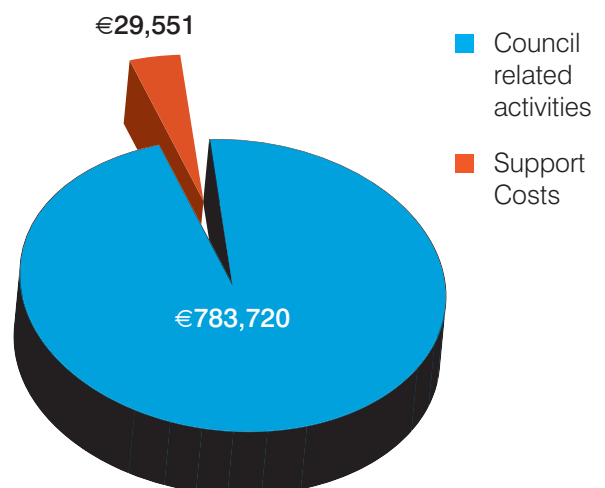
■ Income from sponsoring bodies

■ Membership fees

■ Course fees

■ Other

EXPENDITURE



■ Council related activities

■ Support Costs

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.

Chairperson's Report



It is my pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors to present the 2019 review of the National Parents Council Primary (NPC).

In preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements the Board seeks to demonstrate clearly the activities of the organisation, its impacts and benefits and how it organises and funds its operations in line with principles of good corporate governance and transparency.

It is fundamental to our organisation that the highest standards of Corporate Governance are maintained. In this regard, NPC is independently governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of 10 voluntary members who receive no remuneration for their services. The Board is charged with the responsibility of administering NPC on a not-for-profit basis. The Board has two committees, Finance/Risk/Audit and Governance. During 2019, the Board met six times and the two committees also met on several occasions. Minutes were prepared for all meetings.

In 2019 we completely changed our Board election procedures offering our entire membership the opportunity to nominate a parent to the Board of NPC. The elections were held online and by post and the implementation of this new system ensures that the governance of NPC is more transparent and democratic than ever before.

Although an Annual Report normally refers to the previous year's activity, I feel 2020 had been such an extraordinary year and offered so many challenges to NPC that it compels

me to comment. Firstly, I would like to recognise the difficulties that many families have gone through during these difficult times. I know many of you have been in contact with us, our thoughts in NPC are with you and will continue to be so. Secondly, I would like to offer some assurance to our members on the steps that the Board have taken to adapt to the changing environment. We recognise that the supports that NPC offer through its services and advocacy are needed now more than ever. To ensure NPC continues to be able to offer these supports the Board recognises its importance in steering the organisation through this time. The NPC Board has continued to meet through 2020 as has its committees. It has worked specifically in the areas of risk assessment and mitigation and financial scenario planning, whilst also ensuring the organisation's compliance with the new Charity Regulators Code of Governance. Whilst no one can predict for certain what the rest of 2020 will bring and indeed 2021, I can assure you that the NPC Board will continue to review NPC's risks and adapt as necessary ensuring that we remain available to parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the Board members for their invaluable contributions to NPC in 2019. Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the CEO and staff of NPC whose commitment and dedication to NPC's Vision on our behalf ensures that NPC continues to improve the experience of children and parents in primary education.

Larry Keaveney
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Report



In 2019, NPC worked to continue implementing its Strategy, "Parents as Partners; Children, Schools and Communities". This strategic plan spans 2018 to 2022 and recognises the unique role we play in representing parents' voices in education and supporting them to support their children through these important years of education.

The service delivery in 2019 was again very busy, with the Helpline answering 3,010 calls and emails representing a 42% increase on 2018. Our training supports also saw an increase in demand with 8,013 parents attending training sessions across the country representing a 9% increase. The mental health and well-being session was again the most sought-after training in 2019 with 2,645 parents attending.

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. Once again NPC had a very successful conference schedule with its Education Conference in June drawing parents from all over the country and bringing speakers from Ireland to examine the importance of learning at home also examining the role homework plays in home learning. In October instead of hosting a special education conference we joined with the Ombudsman for Children's "Beyond Limits" event and hosted a workshop on inclusive education and had an information stand.

Representing parents' voices in primary education is a key purpose of NPC and we continue to develop our

capacity to hear how parents and children experience the primary education system. In 2019, we heard from over ten thousand (10,551) parents and school Principals through our surveys on a wide variety of issues. The survey that gained the most responses from parents was on the issue of the exemption of the study of Irish in school and provided a real insight into parents' views.

NPC continues to network and share practice across parent organisations in other jurisdictions through its involvement with the European Parents' Association and through bi-lateral meetings with Norway and Denmark. In 2019, NPC received a large delegation from Norway interested in the way that NPC works with parents and the broader education sector. Of particular interest to our colleagues from Norway is the innovative teacher education programme that NPC has developed and is currently delivering in a number of teacher education colleges in Ireland. Norway are looking at the feasibility of adapting and implementing the programme in their country.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chairman and the Board for their continued work and support in leading the organisation. I would particularly like to thank the Board and the NPC staff for the work that they have engaged in to adapt NPC to ensure the organisation remains relevant and continues to be a support to parents during 2020 through the challenge that COVID-19 has brought to our education system and families.

Áine Lynch
Chief Executive



Early Years

The NPC Early Years' service was established and developed in order to support parents to support their children both at home and in pre-school and to represent their voice in the Early Years' sector.

Training

NPC developed a training programme designed to support parents to support their children as they transition from pre-school to primary school. 38 sessions were delivered nationwide to 526 participants.

Helpline

NPC continues to support parents with an early years' helpline service, which is available via telephone or email.

Online Learning

NPC developed its first online interactive learning programme in 2019 titled *Learning at home for early years*. This programme was developed to support parents to support their young children's learning at home.

Information leaflets

NPC provides information leaflets to assist parents in finding a pre-school place and to support parents when their

children are transitioning from preschool to primary school. The information leaflets provided are:

- Finding a pre-school place
- How do I choose the best pre-school for my child?
- Who's who in your child's primary school?
- Supporting your child's transition from Pre-school to Primary School.

Website

NPC continues to support parents with the early years section on the NPC website to provide information for parents specifically related to early years' education and care.

Representing Parents

NPC represents the voice of early years' parents to many stakeholders including the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Education & Skills.

Parent Survey

NPC launched three new surveys in 2019 and completed a survey which started in 2018

- You and your child in their early years learning
- You and your child's school aged childcare
- Your childcare (children's survey)
- Childminding Action Plan Survey.



Helpline

2019 saw a significant increase in the number of calls and emails to the Helpline. This reflects the growing awareness of the Helpline and its expansion to take calls from parents with children in early years education.

Of note in 2019, we saw an increase in calls about bullying and calls about school Boards of Management. Calls in all categories of bullying showed an increase,

which demonstrates the necessity for NPC to keep building on its efforts to support parents in this area.

The increase in calls regarding school Boards of Management reflects the fact that the membership of the school boards changed in 2019, with new boards being elected in all schools.

Helpline statistics 2019

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2019
BULLYING	
Bullying involving a child	291
Bullying involving a teacher	39
Cyberbullying	7
Total	337

ISSUE	
Supervision	39
Complaints Procedure	103
Homework	28
Code of Behaviour	32
Split Classes	33
Uniforms	22
Class Size	19
Enrolment	112
Curriculum	66
Time in School	42
Standardised tests	5
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	2
Health and Safety	94
Separated Parents	4
Retention	5
Book Rental Schemes	13
School Transport	4
School Closures	1
Voluntary Contribution	10
Child Abuse	13
Total	647

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2019
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT	
General	101
Complaints	17
Total	118

PARENT ASSOCIATION	
Set up	107
Disputes	59
Financial Issues	179
NPC Membership	115
Rules/Roles	245
Information	376
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	38
Training	173
Insurance	41
Total	1,333

SPECIAL NEEDS	
Special Needs General	147
Assessment	27
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	32
Access to School	32
Professional Resources	17
Total	255
Other	159

EARLY YEARS	161
--------------------	-----

Total	3,010
--------------	--------------

Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2019.

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 whole school community.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED IN 2019

NPC provided 542 training sessions to a total of 8,013 parents in schools across Ireland, six different training programmes for parents were offered countrywide. The training was open to all partners in education: parents, principals, teachers and members of school Boards of Management.

Anti-Bullying Training

This programme enabled parents to support their children regarding issues of bullying and also informed them about the Anti-Bullying procedures in primary schools. This training was funded by the Department of Education and Skills under the Anti Bullying Action Plan.

Parents' Association/Parental Involvement Training

This programme gave information and guidance to new and established Parents' Associations. The aim of the programme was to inform Parents' Associations on 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 school. It aimed to support and facilitate parents in developing a positive partnership in the school as a community. Training for a 'new model' of Parents' Association was also developed and delivered in a pilot school in Kildare. This training was funded by the Department of Education and Skills.

Internet Safety Training

This programme focused on strategies for both improving communication between parents and children and negotiating boundaries to children's internet use. Parents were given the skills to engage with their children's online lives. Through the training, parents were also informed about 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. This training was co-financed by the European Union, Connecting Europe Facility and Virgin Media.

Parenting – Supporting your Child to Build Healthy Friendships and Relationships

Parents attended the information session which informed them about the Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) curriculum and what they can do to support their children in building healthy friendships and relationships. Parents also attended a three session parenting workshop which delved more deeply into topics such as communication and social, emotional and physical development of children. This programme is funded by the HSE, Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme.

Supporting Parents to Support their Children's Mental Health and Well-being

This programme supported parents to encourage and promote positive mental health and well-being with their children. It also explored how the building of resilience in children helps them to manage and cope with the day-to-day stresses of life as they occur. This training was funded by St. Patrick's Mental Health Services.

Transition from Primary to Post-Primary Training

This programme was provided for parents whose children were in 4th, 5th or 6th class. It supported parents to reflect on their own feelings about their child transitioning from primary to post-primary school. It also gave them useful information on subject choices and an insight into the post-primary education system. This training was funded by the Department of Education and Skills.



TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2019

Type of Training		Number of Sessions Delivered	Number of Attendees
Parents' Association Training		182	1,761
Transition from Primary to Post-Primary		78	1,247
Internet Safety		83	974
Parenting – Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships	Information Sessions	24	409
	Training Programme	5	169
Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and well-being		121	2,645
Anti Bullying Training		49	808
Overall Totals		542	8,013



Partnership Schools Ireland

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) is a joint initiative by the National Parents Council Primary (NPC) and the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN), part funded by the Department of Education and Skills. It is based on an evidence informed approach which originated in the USA and has been researched for more than thirty years. The programme was developed by Dr. Joyce Epstein and her colleagues in the Centre on School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. PSI was piloted in Ireland in 2014 and has been active since 2015.

Each school forms an Action Team for Partnership (ATP). This team usually has 8-16 members and is made up of the principal, school staff, pupils, parents and members of the wider community. This team receives training in the partnership model. They set 4 goals to achieve during the school year. The aim of programme is that the ATP in each trained school brings together school staff, students, families and community members to increase parental engagement and whole school community partnership working in order to improve outcomes for the children in that school.

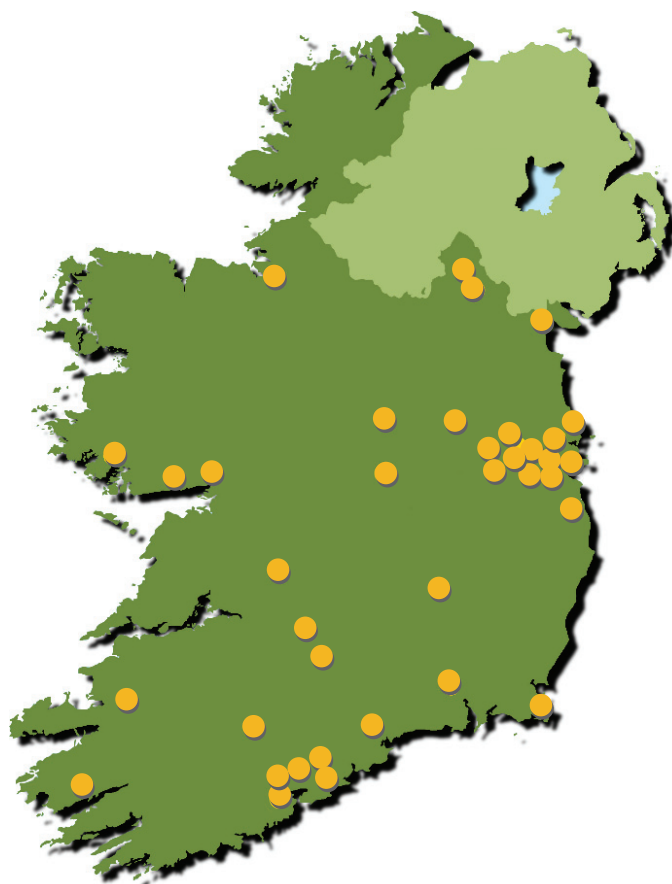
Throughout 2019, nine schools were trained, bringing the total number of Partnership Schools in Ireland to 38.

The PSI coordinator held four Regional Support Meetings in 2019. In April and November, Regional Support Meetings were held in Co. Cork and Co. Meath for PSI trained schools. Members of the schools ATPs were invited to attend whichever meeting was closest to them.

NPC Services Manager facilitated a Partnership Schools briefing for Home School Community Liaison coordinators during their summer inservice in July.

In 2019, an online PSI course was developed. This course is designed to be completed by new or existing members of an active ATP remotely. It will allow ATP members to refresh their knowledge of PSI and the ATP and will provide a basic introduction to new members of an ATP. This course is now available to all active PSI schools.

2019 also saw the completion of work on a Promising Partnership Practices Ireland booklet. Promising Partnership Practices is an annual publication by the National Network of Partnership Schools in the USA. It documents the partnership work of schools across the USA and in other countries worldwide. In 2018 PSI was featured in this publication. Going forward, an annual Promising Partnership Practices Ireland booklet will bring together the goals, actions and experiences of ATPs across Ireland.



Communicating with Parents & Children

In line with the NPC strategic objective to develop two-way communications and ensure the delivery of quality information, NPC in 2019 continued to communicate with parents and children via annual conferences, the website, social media and surveys.

CONFERENCES

Education Conference 2019

The NPC Conference 'Tomorrow's World: Parents supporting children's futures' took place in the National College of Ireland, Dublin on Saturday the 8th of June.

A research team from Marino Institute of Education, including Joan Kiely, Leah O'Toole, Maja Haals Brosnan, Emma Zara O'Brien and Cliona O'Keeffe shared the findings of a study on parental involvement, engagement and partnership in their children's education during the primary school years, conducted on behalf of NPC and funded by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). The presentation focused on how parents support children's learning in the home-learning environment, the importance of relationships between schools and families and the contested role of homework in extending children's learning in the home. The presentation offered a number of key recommendations arising from the findings. The Department of Education and Skills were represented on the day by Seán Ó Foghlú, Secretary General who addressed those present and took part in a question and answer session.

Martin Stuart, a primary school teacher, who now specialises in Learning Support gave a presentation on 'Homework: The why and the why not, the how and the how not'. Martin's presentation focused on practical things schools and parents can do to ensure that homework is most effective for children. He talked about changes in his school that have made homework more enjoyable and less stressful, while always aiming at boosting learning.

The final presentation on the day 'Science outside the classroom: Home Learning & Parental Support' was given by Dr. Arlene Gallagher, Assistant Professor at the School of Physics, Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Arlene has continuously engaged in the promotion of science through designing, delivering and evaluating education and outreach activities. Arlene has also held ambassadorial roles, and advocated for girls and women in STEM.



L-R: NPC CEO, Áine Lynch with the research team from Marino Institute, Leah O'Toole, Maja Haals Brosnan, Joan Kiely, Emma Zara O'Brien and Cliona O'Keeffe

Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award 2019

The NPC Innovation Award recognising innovative partnership between parents and schools was awarded at the conference. The Award seeks to shine a light on the excellent partnership work that Parents' Associations are engaging in across Ireland.

The winner of the Award was the Parents' Association of **Kilshanroe National School, Enfield, Co. Kildare** with their project 'To clarify the role and purpose of the Parents' Association (PA) to school staff, school children and to parents, to form a collective vision for the school, and utilise the PA to achieve that vision.'



L-R: NPC CEO, Áine Lynch presenting the trophy for 1st place to Alan Ryan, Kilshanroe National School Parents' Association



L-R: NPC CEO, Áine Lynch with Jennifer Cherry, St. Francis Xavier Junior National School Parents' Association with the 2nd place Award

In second place was the Parents' Association of **St. Francis Xavier Junior National School, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15** with their project 'Academic Action Goal: Reading Goggles'.

In third place was the Parents' Association of **Gaelscoil Dhroichead na Banndan, from Bandon, Co. Cork** 'Grow your own garden'.

Twelve other Parents' Associations were awarded certificates of achievement for their entries to the Award.

For further information on the Award winners see the NPC website www.npc.ie

Special Education Conference 2019

National Parents Council Primary (NPC) host a Special Education Conference annually, in 2019 however, the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) held an event for parents, children and young people of all abilities entitled '**Beyond Limits**' and NPC decided to join and support this event in place of holding a conference. As part of NPC's contribution to this event we held a consultation session and hosted an information stand.

NPC's consultation session was entitled '**Should Your Child be Educated with their Peers? Have Your Say!**' and focused on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), a human rights treaty, adopted by the United Nations in 2006, signed by the Irish Government 2007 and ratified in March 2018. Áine Lynch, CEO, National Parents Council Primary and Mary Byrne, Head of Special Education, National Council for Special Education gave presentations to inform the consultation session.

Website

The NPC website www.npc.ie aims to provide parents with information regarding NPC and information on primary and early years education. The NPC website is our main communication hub and shows up-to-date newsfeeds on issues of interest to parents of children in primary and early years education. During 2019 the website had 53,691 users, an increase of 24.5% from 2018.

Social Media

NPC launched a Facebook page on the 12th of March 2019 to make it easier to share information with parents and to allow parents to easily share information with one another.

Surveys

NPC gives parents and children the opportunity to share their views with NPC regarding primary and early years 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, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and other key stakeholders.

Survey Title	Number of Responses
You and your child in their Early Years Learning (471 in total with 2018)	85
Exemption from the study of Irish in school	4,483
Review of the RSE Curriculum	3,306
NPC Small schools survey	758
You and your child's school age childcare	1,430
Your childcare (children's survey)	290
Childminding Action Plan	199
Total	10,551



Volunteering

In line with the NPC Strategic Plan 2018–2022 NPC developed training for an Ambassador role to deliver added value to the vision and work of the NPC through an ethos of volunteerism within NPC. In September 2018, following consultation with NPC County Branch members and parents, NPC redesigned its representational structure to replace County Branches and the National Assembly by developing Regional Hubs. The Ambassadors will be members of the communities within the Regional Hubs and will play an active part in promoting the NPC's Vision, Mission, Values and activities. Training for the Ambassador role began a roll out at the beginning of 2019.

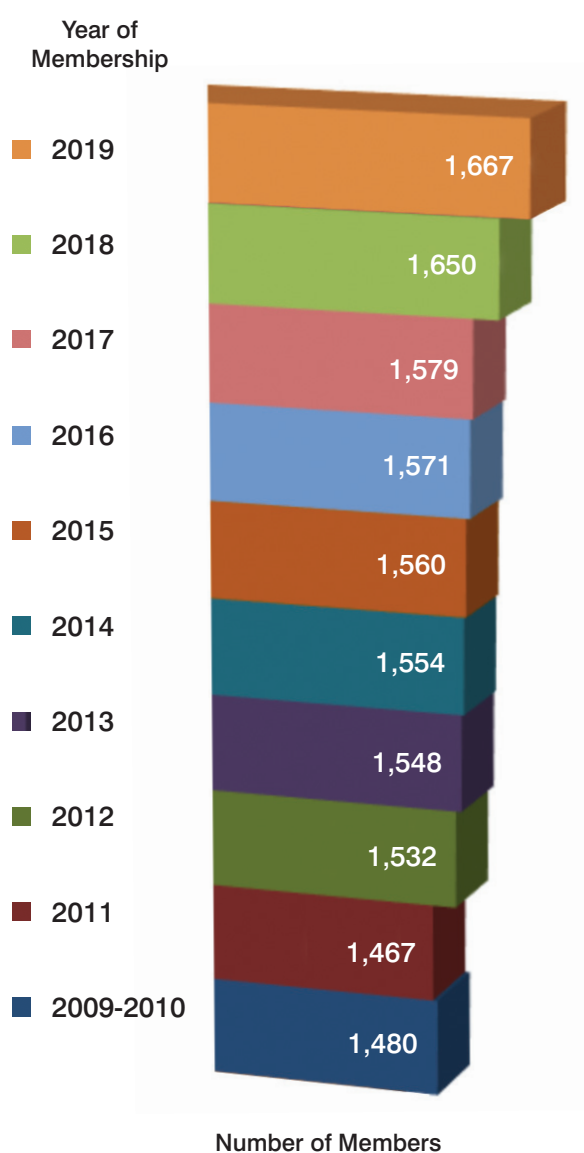
The newly named NPC Delegate role was better defined and supported to ensure that NPC members are fully involved and assisted to provide an effective structure for parents in their schools.

Membership

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

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

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2009–2019



The table below shows the membership for 2019.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2019

County	Number of Members
Carlow	25
Cavan	44
Clare	35
Cork	219
Donegal	64
Dublin	259
Galway	87
Kerry	72
Kildare	69
Kilkenny	41
Laois	37
Leitrim	18
Limerick	81
Longford	21
Louth	51
Mayo	47
Meath	76
Monaghan	32
Offaly	31
Roscommon	35
Sligo	38
Tipperary	100
Waterford	37
Westmeath	34
Wexford	71
Wicklow	43
Total	1,667



Regional Assemblies

The Regional Assemblies are a vibrant and exciting part of NPC where parents can network with other parents and have their voice heard about educational issues that are important to them.

Four Regional Assemblies took place early in 2019 in counties Laois, Cork, Donegal and Galway, with Shalini Hollingum, from Accenture giving a presentation on 'Technology in Education: Preparing children for the future', the results of a NPC survey entitled 'Technology in your child's learning' were also presented in advance of a consultation session with parents on this topic.

In the last school term before the summer holidays Regional Assemblies took place in the counties of Dublin, Cavan, Kilkenny, Wexford and Mayo with presentations on the work of NPC and consultation sessions with parents. Also at these Assemblies in the case of Dublin and Cavan information sessions were provided on 'Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and well-being' and in the case of Kilkenny, Wexford and Mayo sessions on 'Bullying – What can you as a parent do to support your child?'

In line with our strategic plan, a Children's Participation Unit was established. Following the summer, NPC held five regional assemblies in venues around the country, consulting with parents and children about their views on the Senior Cycle, as it is now and whether they would like to see it changed. Although NPC often consults with parents at assemblies, this was the first time that children were consulted in this way. Representatives of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) gave presentations at each of the Assemblies on the Senior Cycle Review and the combined results of two surveys by NPC on the senior cycle, first circulated in 2018 and again in 2019, were also presented on the day to inform the consultation.



Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2019

I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee, NPC Chairpersons, Robert Grier and Larry Keaveney, Damian Murray, Aisling Lawton and Pirooz Daneshmandi, together with the CEO, Áine Lynch, and the staff of NPC for their work during the year.

I am happy to report that the NPC finances remained healthy in 2019 as shown in this Financial Report. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 have been issued to NPC members and are also available on the Council's website.

Dermot O'Riordan

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 2019.

The Council's charity registration number is CHY 10547 and the company registration number is 258148.

The registered office of the Council is 12 Marlborough Court, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

Administrative details of the Council

The names of those who served as directors during the year are listed on Page 1. On 29 March 2019, Robert Grier retired as Chairperson and Laurence Keaveney was appointed as Chairperson. On 5 October 2019 Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan and Catherine White Byrne retired as directors of the Council and Massimiliano Boccari and Derek O'Leary were appointed as directors of the Council. 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 Council 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 €1.27.

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

The Council comply with the Governance Code for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. The Council confirm that a review of the organisation's compliance with the principles in the Code was conducted on 14th July 2017. This review was based on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. All actions from the previous review have now been completed. The next review is due to take place during 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of the Board

In accordance with the Articles of Association one third of the elected 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.

In 2019 the Board nomination process followed a new process in accordance with the NPC revised Constitution which provided for the members of the NPC to nominate people for election to the Board. Following the nomination stage, an electronic voting process was conducted which facilitated all NPC members to elect the Board members to fill the vacancies that arose.

The Board is committed to achieving high standards of governance. Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the Council. 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 ten: up to eight of whom may be elected by the Full Members (affiliated Parents' Associations) 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 ten members, eight appointed in general meeting and two co-opted by the appointed directors.

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

In the first half of 2020, an outbreak of COVID-19 spread throughout the world. In Ireland, the impact of the pandemic has been characterised by the temporary closure of many businesses and organisations in "non-essential" areas to ensure people's movements are restricted in order to slow

down the spread of the virus. The National Parents Council Primary has been able to continue operating during the pandemic period but the offices have been closed and all staff have been working remotely from home. This has changed the way that NPC have offered supports to parents but not prevented service provision. However remote working has had an impact on a number of activities that have not been able to continue during the COVID-19 period:

1. The most significant impact has been on face to face training. During the remote working period and school closure no face to face training has taken place.
2. Partnership schools- during school closure no new schools have been trained in the partnership schools programme.

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.

Vision

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

Mission

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

Key Activities

The key activities in achieving the vision and mission of the Council are:

1. Representing the parents' voice in primary education
2. Advocacy
3. Building participation
4. Service delivery

Achievements and Performance

The Council publishes an Annual Review outlining the achievements of the organisation under its Strategic Plan's Aims and Objectives.

Financial Review

The Council reported an operating deficit of €4,104 in the year (2018: deficit of €7,942).

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 Council 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.

Accounting Records

The directors believe that they have complied with the requirement of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to keeping adequate accounting records by employing accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are maintained at the company's offices at 12 Marlborough Court, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

Post Balance Sheet Events

In the first half of 2020, the outbreak of COVID-19 spread throughout the World. In Ireland, the impact of the pandemic has been characterised by the temporary closure of many businesses and organisations in "non- essential" areas to ensure people's movements are restricted in order to slow down the spread of the virus.

The National Parents Council Primary has been able to continue operating during the pandemic period, but the offices have been closed and all staff have been working remotely from home.

As set out in Note 1, the Council has assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its operations at the date of approval of the financial statements. This assessment encompassed a detailed recent review of the future outlook of the company which demonstrates that the Council should have adequate resources to continue operating for at least the 12- month period from date of approval of the financial statements.

Accordingly, the directors consider it appropriate that the Council prepares its financial statements on a going concern basis.

Plans for Future Periods

National Parents Council - Primary's Strategic Plan; "Parents as Partners" will shape the plans and direction for the organisation until 2022.

The Council has voluntarily adopted the reporting requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) FRS 102.

Relevant Audit Information

The directors believe that they have taken all steps necessary to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and have established that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information. Insofar as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware.

Auditor

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, KPMG, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

On behalf of the Board

Laurence Keaveney

Director

Dermot O'Riordan

Director

26 June 2020

Date

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

(Company Limited by Guarantee - without Share Capital)

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 FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of 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 net income or expenditure 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;

- assess the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are responsible for such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and 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.

On behalf of the Board

Laurence Keaveney

Director

Dermot O'Riordan

Director

26 June 2020

Date

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL PARENTS COUNCIL – PRIMARY (Company Limited by Guarantee - without Share Capital)

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Parents Council - Primary (*Company Limited by Guarantee – Without Share Capital*) ("the company") for the year ended 31 December 2019 set out on pages 10 to 22, which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and related notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in Note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2019 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We have nothing to report on going concern

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material

uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information presented in the Annual Report together with the financial statements. The other information comprises the information included in the directors' report. The financial statements and our auditor's report thereon do not comprise part of the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information. Based solely on our work on the other information we report that;

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by Sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on Page 6, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with

ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on IAASA's website at

https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Richard Hobson
for and on behalf of
KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm
1 Stokes Place,
St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2

26 June 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2019

	*Restricted funds 2019 €	**Unrestricted funds 2019 €	Total funds 2019 €	Total funds 2018 €
Income from				
Charitable activities				
- sponsoring bodies	354,043	331,000	685,043	671,712
Other trading activities				
- membership fees	-	102,461	102,461	100,102
- course fees	-	20,325	20,325	18,797
- publication sales	-	135	135	290
Investment income	-	120	120	255
Other income	-	1,083	1,083	5,975
Total incoming resources	354,043	455,124	809,167	797,131
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	(354,043)	(459,228)	(813,271)	(805,073)
Total resources expended	(354,043)	(459,228)	(813,271)	(805,073)
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	-	(4,104)	(4,104)	(7,942)
Total funds brought forward	-	356,069	356,069	364,011
Total funds carried forward	-	351,965	351,965	356,069

There are no other comprehensive income and losses for the current or preceding financial year. Accordingly no statement of other comprehensive income or statement of changes in equity has been prepared.

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

Explanation of some terms in the Financial Report

*** 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.

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2019

	2019 €	2018 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	11,885	13,884
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	433,027	450,790
Debtors and prepayments	40,166	35,903
	473,193	486,693
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(130,849)	(139,101)
Net current assets	342,344	347,592
Total assets less current liabilities	354,229	361,476
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(2,264)	(5,407)
Net assets	351,965	356,069
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds	351,965	356,069
Accumulated surplus	351,965	356,069

On behalf of the Board

Laurence Keaveney
Director

Dermot O’Riordan
Director

26 June 2020
Date

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2019

Robert Grier

Chairperson retired 29.3.2019

Board meeting attendance 1/1

Expenses €56.33

Laurence Keaveney

Chairperson appointed 29.3.2019

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €147.87

Miriam Brandt

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €1,168.51

Pirooz Daneshmandi

Board meeting attendance 3/6

Expenses €0

Hilary Lawrence

Vice-Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €688.98

Aisling Lawton

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €0

Damian Murray

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €0

Dermot O'Riordan

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €148.65

Patrick Ryan

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €0

Catherine White Byrne

Vice-Chairperson retired 05.10.2019

Board meeting attendance 2/5

Expenses €232.61

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan retired 05.10.2019

Board meeting attendance 5/5

Expenses €0

Massimiliano Boccalari appointed 05.10.2019

Board meeting attendance 1/1

Expenses €0

Derek O'Leary appointed 05.10.2019

Board meeting attendance 1/1

Expenses €0

Expenses shown may include payments to Directors incurred through other volunteer roles within NPC.

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019

Audit Committee

- Dermot O'Riordan (Chairperson) 3/3
- Larry Keaveney 2/2
- Damian Murray 3/3
- Aisling Lawton 2/3
- Pirooz Daneshmandi 2/3

Governance Committee

- Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan (Chairperson) 2/2
- Miriam Brandt 1/2
- Hillary Lawrence 2/2
- PJ Ryan 2/2

NPC STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Catherine Cross	Services Manager
Clare Downey	Early Years Services Manager
Richard Quinn	Financial Administrator
Carmel O'Shea	Helpline Officer
Michelle Scanlan	Helpline Officer
Danielle Goodman	Partnership Schools Ireland Coordinator
Michelle Davern	Administrative Officer
Sharon Hopkins	Training Administrator
David Perkins	Administrator
Marion O'Brien	Administrator





If you would like to contact us...

National Parents Council Primary

12 Marlborough Court

Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 887 4034

Email: info@npc.ie

Helpline:

Tel: +353 1 887 4477

Email: helpline@npc.ie

Website: www.npc.ie

