

NATIONAL PARENTS COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW 2023





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Registered Name

National Parents Council

Directors

Massimiliano Boccalari

Avril Byrne

Catherine Corr

(appointed 30 Sept. 2023)

Cáit Delaney

(resigned 30 Sept. 2023)

William Earley (Chairperson)

(appointed 30 Sept. 2023)

Laurence Keaveney (Chairperson)

(resigned 30 Sept. 2023)

Sue Kennedy Hughes

(resigned 30 Sept. 2023)

David Mullins

Deirdre O'Donovan

(appointed 30 Sept. 2023)

Derek O'Leary

Sonya Ryan

Company Secretary

Aine Lynch

Registered Office

12 Marlborough Court

Marlborough Street Dublin 1

Auditor

KPMG

Chartered Accountants 1 Stokes
Place

St. Stephen's Green Dublin 2

Banker

Bank of Ireland Walkinstown,
Dublin 12

Solicitor

Arthur Cox Solicitors

Earlsfort Centre

Earlsfort Terrace

Dublin 2

Charity Reference Number

CHY 10547

Registered Charity Number

20027032

Companies Registration

Number

733907



2023

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

HELPLINE

1,735

CALLS, EMAILS + WEBCATS TO NPC HELPLINE



TRAINING

12,846

PEOPLE ATTENDED
NPC TRAINING EVENTS

208

IN PERSON SESSIONS
AROUND THE COUNTRY

575

ONLINE SESSIONS



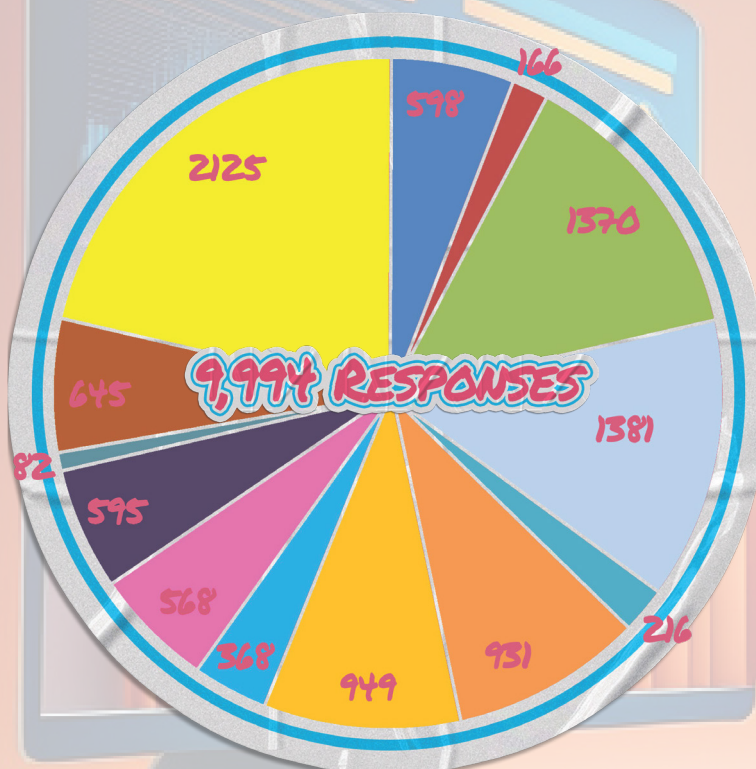
MEMBERSHIP

1,239
MEMBERS

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2014 - 2023



NPC SURVEYS 2023



- CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING (PARENTS)
- CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING
- EPSEN ACT REVIEW
- NEW POLICY FOR IRISH-MEDIUM EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF THE GAELTACHT (PARENTS)
- NEW POLICY FOR IRISH-MEDIUM EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF THE GAELTACHT
- A NEW LITERACY, NUMERACY + DIGITAL LITERACY STRATEGY
- PARENTS EXPERIENCE OF EARLY LEARNING + SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE SUPPORT
- STEM
- TRANSITION YEAR
- DEVELOPING IRELAND'S FIRST BINDING ONLINE SAFETY CODE FOR VIDEO SHARING PLATFORM SERVICES - PARENTS
- DEVELOPING IRELAND'S FIRST BINDING ONLINE SAFETY CODE FOR VIDEO SHARING PLATFORM SERVICES - CHILDREN
- DRAFT SENIOR CYCLE SPHE SPECIFICATION
- FREE SCHOOL BOOKS SCHEME

SOCIAL MEDIA 2023

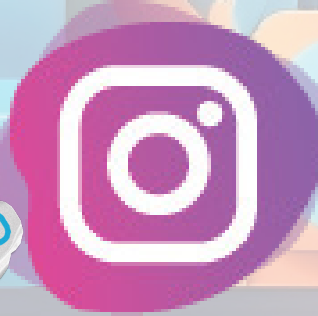


7,300

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

67,431

REACH



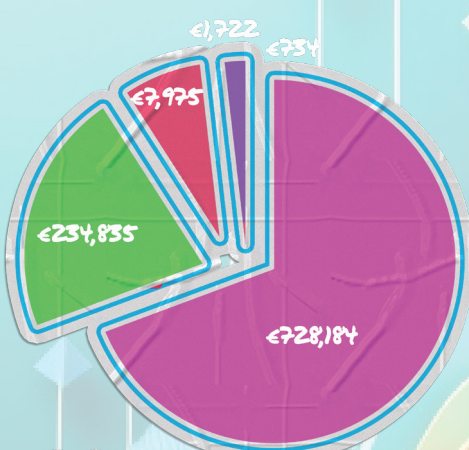
1,800

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

10,013

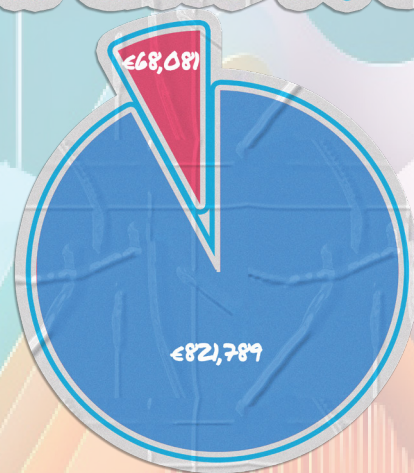
REACH

INCOME



- DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- INCOME FROM SPONSORING BODIES
- MEMBERSHIP FEES
- COURSE FEES
- CORPORATE TRAINING
- OTHER

EXPENDITURE



- COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES
- GOVERNANCE SUPPORT COSTS

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL PARENTS COUNCIL

OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

The National Parents Council 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 education sector, to achieve true partnership and deliver better outcomes for all children and young people.

VALUES

NPC knows that when parents and schools work together, children do better. Therefore NPC believes that in order to achieve this parents must feel:

1. Engaged: Parents must be actively engaged in the education of their children.
2. Supported: Parents' involvement in children's education must be supported by the attitudes, beliefs and practices of all members of the school and broader education community.
3. Partners: Parents must be viewed as partners in facilitating children's learning and be supported in this role by the school and broader education community.
4. Valued: Parents should be viewed as full partners in the decisions that affect their children and their family.
5. Welcomed: Parents should be welcome in the school, and their support and assistance sought as a valuable resource to support children's education in the school.
6. Connected: 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 my first 2023 Annual Review of the National Parents Council (NPC). As reported in the 2022 Annual Review, following the Minister's request to the National Parents Council Primary and the Boards' acceptance of this request the Board decided to extend the current Strategic Plan for a further year which directed the work of NPC during 2023, whilst also doing the work that it needed to immediately undertake to support and advocate for parents in post-primary education. To guide this work the Board approved an interim plan specifically focused at making immediate changes to the organisation to reflect this significant change. In March 2023, the Board at an Extraordinary General Meeting sought approval from its membership to accept parents associations from post-primary schools in to its membership and other changes within the NPC Constitution that would cement the extended remit within the Companies legal framework.

During 2023 alongside the organisational changes outlined the NPC continued in its commitment to providing quality services. In 2023, NPC's Board of Directors also spent considerable efforts in its commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and in this context NPC conducted its annual audit in its compliance with the Charity Regulators Code of Governance. During 2023, the Board met on eight occasions to conduct its business. The Board also had two committees which all operated to terms of reference that were approved by the Board, and each committee's Chairperson was formally elected and reports to the Board. The Board committees are: Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and Governance Committee. 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 is present at the Board and committee meetings in an attendance capacity.



Significant change has occurred in NPC in 2023 which has resulted in NPC being the only recognised parent representative body for parents of children in the early years, primary and post-primary sectors. The achievements of the last twelve months have only been made possible by the work of dedicated staff and volunteers led by a strong management team and Board of Directors. Since I took over as Chairperson of the Board in September of 2023 I have seen that together, they ensure that we maintain the high quality of our services whilst always looking for innovative ways to support and represent parents. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution provided by the members of the Board who provided their own individual expertise in guiding the organisation through a momentous year for NPC. Also may I say a special thank you to Áine our CEO and the dedicated executive team at NPC. The gratitude I feel for the dedication of all Board and staff members in NPC is matched only by the confidence I have in our future.

William Earley
Chairperson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2023 saw a significant change for NPC in respect to delivering on the request from the Minister and her Department of Education to extend its supports, representation and services to parents of children in post-primary education. NPC Primary was established in 1985 and was recognised as the representative body for parents of children in primary school in the Education Act of 1998. In 2023, NPC Primary needed to deliver a new organisation that would support, represent and provide services for parents from early years education right the way through to the end of post-primary education. Whilst this was an exciting year reimagining the new organisation that was required, it also provided operational challenges. These included renaming the organisation to be reflective of all parents and to ensure this renaming complied with all legislative requirements. We also needed to ensure the organisation had a new “look and feel” to it to reassure parents in post-primary didn’t feel they were an add on, but part of a new NPC. The members of NPC Primary importantly needed to approve this extended remit by allowing for post-primary parents to become members of the NPC. And importantly we needed to plan for the expansion of supports, representation and services for post-primary parents.

The staff and Board rose to the occasion of the expansion and whilst continuing on with the day-to day work that it had been doing prior to the request to expand it commenced the work of expansion.

In 2023, NPC service delivery was again very busy. NPC continued to respond to parents’ concerns through the Helpline. The Helpline answered 1,735 calls and emails during the year. Our training supports provided sessions to 10,136 parents, with the continued gradual return to more face-to-face sessions. In 2023, Internet Safety was the most popular session provided, closely followed by Mental health and well-being. The level of engagement by parents in our services continues to indicate that NPC



supports are valued and relevant to parents of primary school and early years children. Again representing parents’ voices was central to the work of NPC in 2023, and we heard from nearly ten thousand (9,994) parents through our surveys on a wide variety of issues. The survey that gained the most responses from parents was on the issue of the free school book scheme with over two thousand (2,125) responses.

In 2023, a number of representation and service provisions commenced for parents of children in post-primary education. In relation to representing the voice of parents in post-primary, three consultations and submissions were made. These were in the area of Social, Personal Health Education curriculum development in senior cycle, STEM education and Transition Year programme. In relation to service provision, in 2023, the NPC helpline service and the parents’ association training were both offered at post primary level. Extending our services for post-primary parents, offers NPC the opportunity to provide cohesive supports and advocacy for parents from the time their child enters the early years sector to the time their child leaves their post-primary education. NPC also commenced the important job of building relationships and partnerships with our post-primary partners in education and we look forward to continuing building these important relationships. 2023 was both a challenging and rewarding year for NPC and would not have been as successful without the continued enthusiasm and commitment of our Board and staff, and the continued confidence placed in us by parents.



The NPC Early Years' service was established and developed 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 delivers two early years training workshops for parents:

NPC has worked in partnership with St Patrick's Mental Health Services to develop a programme to support parents to support their young child's positive mental health and wellbeing at home.

NPC also delivers Supporting your child's transition from pre-school to primary school. This programme has been developed to support parents to support their children when they make the transition from pre-school to primary school. This training is funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. NPC delivered 138 training workshops to parents both online and in person to 2,710 parents in 2023.

Type of training delivered	Sessions delivered online	Sessions delivered in-person	Number of attendees
Transition from pre-school to primary school	62	7	1,466
Supporting parents to support their children's mental health at home	67	2	1,244
Total	129	9	2,710

Early Years Helpline Issues	
Early Learning - Training	57
Early Learning - ECCE Scheme	79
Early Learning Service Policies	10
Early Learning- AIM	12
Transition from preschool to primary school	10
Optional Extra	2
Deposits	11
Leavers/Transfers	9
National Childcare Scheme (NCS)	17
Early Learning at home	3
Overage exemption	12
EY other	9
Total	231

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 pre-school 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
- Supporting playful learning at home.
- Supporting your child's positive mental health

Website

NPC continues to support parents with the early years' section on the NPC website providing information for parents specifically related to early years' education and care. The early years' FAQ had 4,683 page views, with 158,124 views across the whole website.

Representing Parents

NPC represents the voice of early years' parents to many stakeholders including the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the Department of Education.

HELPLINE

2023 was another busy year for the NPC Helpline with 1,735 contacts. This comprised of phone calls, emails and the Helpline webchat service accessed via the NPC website.

As always 2023 saw our Helpline Officers deal with a large number of queries relating to a variety of topics including but not limited to Parents' Association set up, roles and finances; Bullying by a child; Early Years ECCE Scheme and Training; Complaints procedures and Special Needs.

One of the main highlights of 2023 was the inclusion of Post Primary queries which continues to grow.

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls, emails and webchats for 2023
Bullying	
Bullying by child	81
Bullying by teacher	7
Bullying by principal	3
Principal/BOM not implementing Anti-Bullying policy	3
Cyber bullying	3
Total	97
Board of Management	
General BOM query	29
Complaints about BOM	10
Total	39
Early Years	
Early Learning - Training	57
Early Learning - ECCE Scheme	79
Early Learning Service Policies	10
Early Learning- AIM	12
Transition from preschool to primary school	10
Optional Extra	2
Deposits	11
Leavers/Transfers	9
National Childcare Scheme (NCS)	17
Early Learning at home	3
Overage exemption	12
EY other	9
Total	231
Issues Primary	
Supervision	13
Complaints Procedure	50
Homework	7
Code of Behaviour	20
Split Classes	8
Uniforms	7
Class size	4
Enrolment	60
Curriculum	30
Time in school	34
Standardised tests	6
WSE	2
Health and Safety	32
Parenting Issues	10
Book rental schemes	5
First Holy Communion	4
School Transport	2
Voluntary Contribution	7
PSI queries	2
Total	303

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls, emails and webchats for 2023
Parents' Associations (PA) Primary	
Set up a PA	109
Dispute in a PA	55
Financial issues	144
NPC membership	73
Rules/roles of a PA	258
Information on PA	95
Difficulties with Principal/BOM	15
Training for PA	133
PA insurance	25
GDPR	7
Garda Vetting	12
Total	926
Issues Post Primary	
Junior cycle	8
Junior cycle exam	2
Leaving cert	3
Post Leaving Cert courses	1
LC grades	1
Post primary other	3
Total	18
Special Needs	
SN - Special needs enquiry	33
SN1 - Assessment	38
SN2 - SNAs	1
SN3 - Access to school	14
SN4 - Professional resources	4
Total	90
Other	31
Total	1735

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2023.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

TRAINING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED IN 2023

Trainings continue to be offered universally online to all parents on our database, demand for these was still strong and parents were telling us that it was very often much more convenient to attend training online.

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 and post-primary schools. Demand for this programme continues to increase, there was a 32% increase of trainings sessions that also saw an increase in attendance of 25%. This programme has been re-designed for post-primary and will also incorporate changes into the training for primary level.

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.

The beginning of the year was quite busy with bookings for parents' association trainings, most requests are for in person training. 16% of schools requested an online session, which illustrates the need to continue to offer online training as an option. Parent Association trainings for post-primary schools began late in the year and 10 were in 2023.

This training was funded by the Department of Education

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.

Attendance for this training was up by 8% on last year and is quite possibly due to the discussions occurring in society around phone usage for primary school children.

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

This was a three-part programme that covered topics such as the parent-child relationship and how children form friendships and relationships, communication skills for parents, and lastly, how parents can use those communication skills to have those 'sometimes difficult' conversations. There was a huge demand for these sessions this year, which far exceeded the demand in pre-pandemic years. 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 promoting resilience in children helps them to manage and cope with the day-to-day stresses of life as they occur.

This programme continues to be one of our most popular sessions, Parents often request additional resources that will support their knowledge after this course and they are provided with our Mental health leaflet that corresponds to the training, and a new online web-based (on demand) training programme that was added to our website this year, and will serve as an extra resource
This training was funded by St.Patrick's Mental Health Services.

NPC TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2023

Training Programme	Universal Sessions Delivered Online	School Specific Delivered Online	Sessions delivered In-person	Number of attendees
Parents' Association	0	24	120	1387
Mental Health and Well-being	88	6	15	2058
Transition from Primary to Post Primary	25	3	9	744
Internet Safety	116	6	32	2400
Anti-Bullying	78	5	20	1949
RSE part 1	51	0	1	913
RSE part 2	20	0	1	334
RSE part 3	24	0	1	351
Training Delivered to 10,136 parents so far this year.				



PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS IRELAND

The Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) programme aims to ensure better outcomes for children by promoting partnerships between schools, families, and the wider community. It is a joint initiative by the National Parents Council Primary and the Irish Primary Principals Network and is part-funded by the Department of Education

The PSI programme is based on the work of Dr Joyce Epstein (Centre of School, Family & Community Partnerships, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore).

Dr Epstein has been conducting research on partnerships between schools, families, and communities for 40 years. This research has consistently shown that when strong families, excellent schools and healthy communities overlap and work together they provide the best possible opportunities for children to thrive. Working this way improves academic, social, and behavioural outcomes for children and boosts confidence for teachers and families.

The work of a "Partnership School" is driven by an Action Team for Partnerships (ATP). Each school forms an ATP of 8–16 people. The ATP consists of the principal, other school staff, students, parents, and members of the wider community and should represent the school community.

Each year, the ATP leads the work on four goals. These are:

- Two academic goals
 - One behavioural goal
 - One "climate of partnership" goal
- Virtual support meetings were also held for PSI schools which offered support to ATPs around goal setting and sharing of good practise. 2023 saw a continuation of the challenges post covid of parents and others going into schools so there was a slow uptake on training in schools but there were 4 new schools trained in PSI in 2023.

Work continued on the promotion of working in partnership in schools and also on the PSI programme across 2023. The CEO and Services Manager delivered information sessions on partnership with parents to newly appointed Principals and deputy Principals at there professional development days and to principals and school leaders at the IPPN conference. In addition to the in-person events, ninety-five principals and deputy principals attended four virtual information sessions delivered by the PSI Co-Ordinator.



INCLUSION, VOICE & INFLUENCE

The Inclusion, Voice and Influence Officer role, was developed in 2022 to enable NPC to engage with parents and children with a special focus on hearing the voice of seldom heard parents and children.

The Inclusion, Voice and Influence Officer works closely and collaboratively with relevant local, regional and national groups, forming relationships with stakeholders and partners, that will assist NPC to support and represent this group of parents.

Throughout the year surveys were the main focus of the work.

NPC developed two surveys, one for parents and one for children and young people, in order to hear their opinions on the topic of child and young people's participation in decision-making in matters relating to education in Ireland. The surveys ran from the 18th January 2023 to the 22nd January 2023. There were a total of 598 responses to the parent survey and 166 responses to the child & young person's survey.

Also in January 2023, NPC developed two surveys to hear the views of parents and children about what they believed the new policy for Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht should include. The surveys ran from January 20th 2023 until January 30th 2023. In total there were 1,381 responses from parents and 216 responses from children. These surveys formed the basis of a submission to the Department of Education.

From the 31st of January to the 8th of February 2023, NPC ran a survey to garner parents experience of early learning and school age childcare support. There were 949 responses to this survey.

NPC developed a survey in order to hear the opinions of parents on the topic of a new literacy, numeracy and digital literacy strategy. The survey ran from the 2nd to the 13th February 2023. There were a total of 931 responses to this survey.

NPC conducted a survey with the parents of Primary school children in January 2022 on the topic of the STEM Education Implementation Plan. For the purposes of completion, this survey was extended to parents of children in post primary education in February 2023. There were a total of 4262 responses (3894 for the Primary survey, and 368 for the Post-Primary survey).

NPC developed a survey and conducted two online

consultation events to hear the opinions of parents on the topic of the EPSEN Act. The survey ran from the 23rd of February to 20th March. There were a total of 1370 responses to the survey and 40 participants at the online consultation events.

NPC made a submission to Coimisiún na Meán on developing Ireland's First Binding Online Safety Code for Video-Sharing Platform Services. To inform the submission two online surveys were developed in order to hear parents' opinions and the opinions of their children. The surveys asked for feedback on parents and their children's experiences of consuming video content as well as their views on important issues in the development of the code. The survey ran from the 28th to the 30th August 2023. There were 595 responses from parents and 82 responses from children.

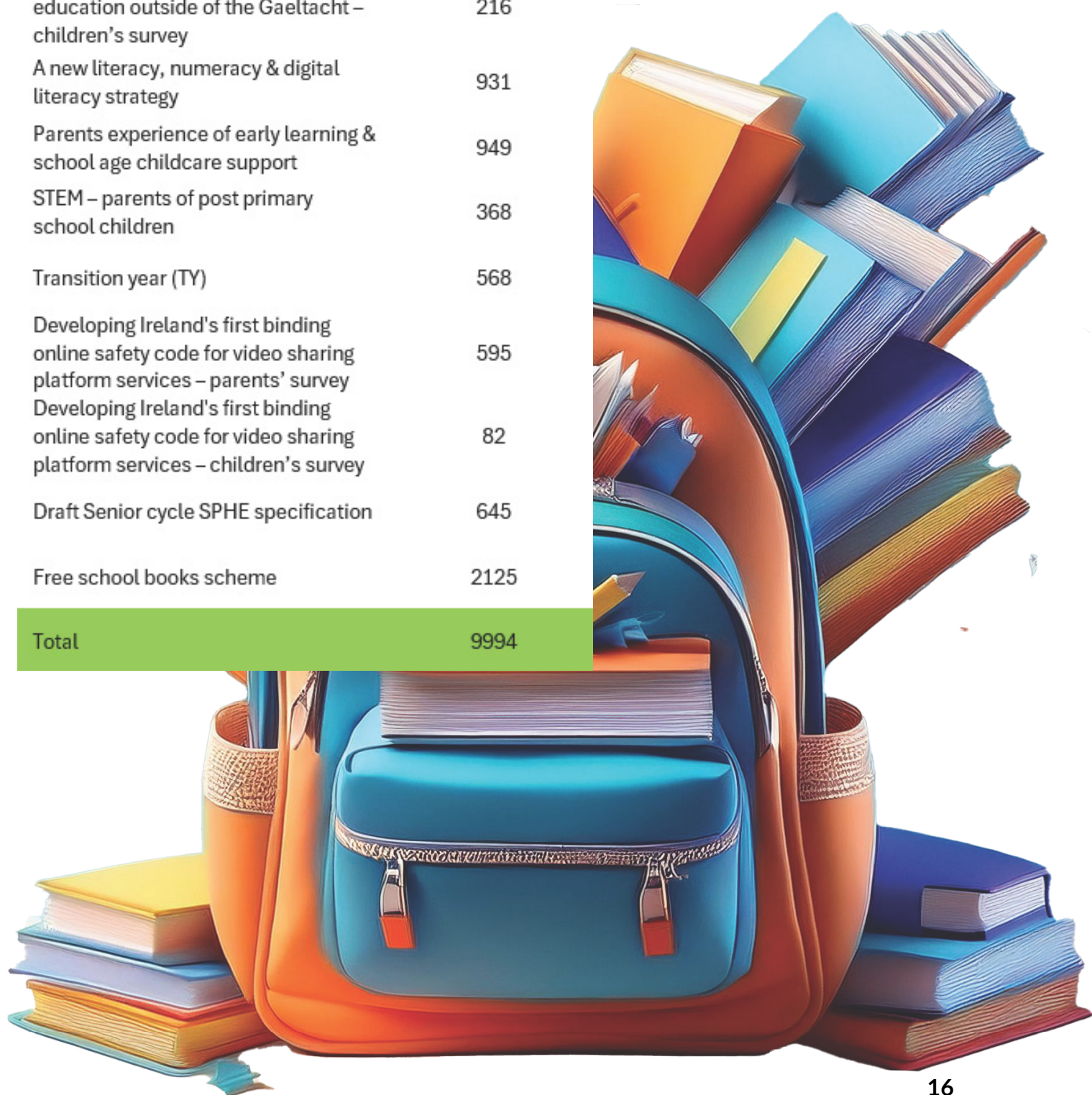
The Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum for Senior cycle (4th, 5th, and 6th) years, was developed by the NCCA and is currently being reviewed. NPC wanted to hear the views of parents and their opinions around the three main strands underpinning the SPHE Senior Cycle: Health and Well-being; Relationships and Sexuality (RSE); and Transitioning to Adulthood.

The survey was open from the 1st to the 6th of November 2023 and there were 645 responses. Parents had the opportunity to share what they believe is important about the SPHE Senior Cycle, reflect on the overall strands of it, and highlight the impact this curriculum could have on their children.

NPC surveyed parents on the Transition Year (TY) programme in post primary schools in order to make a submission to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) on TY. The survey was open from the 1st to the 6th of November 2023 and there were 568 responses.

In September 2023, the government introduced a Schoolbooks Grant, a scheme where children in recognised primary and special schools were provided with free books, workbooks, and copybooks. NPC wanted to know the impact this scheme had on families. The survey was open from the 5th to the 10th of November 2023, and there 2125 responses.

Survey title	Number of responses
Children & young people's participation in decision making – parents' survey	598
Children & young people's participation in decision making – children's survey	166
EPSEN Act Review	1370
New policy for Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht – parents' survey	1381
New policy for Irish-medium education outside of the Gaeltacht – children's survey	216
A new literacy, numeracy & digital literacy strategy	931
Parents experience of early learning & school age childcare support	949
STEM – parents of post primary school children	368
Transition year (TY)	568
Developing Ireland's first binding online safety code for video sharing platform services – parents' survey	595
Developing Ireland's first binding online safety code for video sharing platform services – children's survey	82
Draft Senior cycle SPHE specification	645
Free school books scheme	2125
Total	9994



COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS + CHILDREN

In line with the NPC strategic objective to develop two-way communications and ensure the delivery of quality information, in 2023 NPC continued to communicate with parents of primary school and early years children and also extended our remit to include parents of post primary school children.

Website & Social Media

The NPC website www.npc.ie aims to provide parents with information regarding NPC and information on early years, primary and post primary education, the website is the single most visible front of the organisation. The website is NPC's main communication hub, where traffic is redirected through social media and surveys.

Facebook has been a long standing platform for NPC with over 7,300 followers and sees engagement for posts including training information, free events for parents and news related to education. There are also over 1,800 NPC Instagram followers.

Surveys

NPC gives parents and children the opportunity to share their views with the organisation regarding early years, primary and post primary education issues by way of surveys promoted on the website, social media and circulated to members and NPC contacts. For further information on NPC surveys please see the Inclusion, Voice and Influence section.

The NPC Innovation Award recognises innovative partnership work between schools and parents which supports children to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The NPC Innovation Award 2023 took place at the NPC AGM on the 30th of September 2023.

We had joint winners in 2023. River Valley Community National School, Swords, Co Dublin with their project "Positively impacting mental health and well-being". Working with the school and families to support physical, spiritual, creative, physiological, social and cognitive needs. Providing a wide range of activities and resources to help our students and their families and being true 'Partners in Learning'; and Scoil Choilm Community National School, Porterstown, Dublin 15 with "Bridging the communication gap between parents and school whilst promoting parents' involvement in school with more engaging, approachable and dynamic initiatives." Scoil Choilm Parents' Association has a vision of a community working together to empower and support our younger generations, prioritising parental involvement in the school.

In second place was the Parents' Association of St Brigid's Girls National School, Killester with their project the "Win/Win Initiative" To create ample opportunities for parents/guardians and extended family members to contribute towards and participate in educational experiences and other activities for the benefit of all involved.

In third place we had 3 joint winners: Scoil Íosef, Castlemartyr, Co Cork with their "Safer route to school project". The goal of the project was to provide a safe and stimulating walk to school. Harold Boys National School, Dalkey with their project "Transformation of an underused storage room into a versatile Sensory/Tranquility Room" and Annacurra National School, Annacurra, Co Wicklow with their project "To improve communication methods to showcase all fundraising initiatives and upcoming events with all families to help strengthen parent involvement, participation and engagement".

A further nine Parents' Associations were awarded certificates of achievement for their entries to the Award.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership of National Parents Council consists of affiliated Parents' Associations

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2023

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

The table below shows the membership for 2023



County	Number of Members
Carlow	19
Cavan	31
Clare	28
Cork	180
Donegal	38
Dublin	178
Galway	65
Kerry	49
Kildare	55
Kilkenny	40
Laois	24
Leitrim	17
Limerick	53
Longford	16
Louth	42
Mayo	28
Meath	64
Monaghan	21
Offaly	24
Roscommon	28
Sligo	24
Tipperary	61
Waterford	32
Westmeath	24
Wexford	62
Wicklow	36
Total	1239

FINANCIAL REPORT





Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2023

I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee Sonya Ryan, Deirdre O'Donovan and Avril Byrne, 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 2023 as shown in this Financial Report. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been issued to NPC members and are also available on the Council's website.



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" or "NPC") for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Council's charity registration number is CHY 10547 and the Company registration number is 258148. The Company operates under the registered business name National Parents Council.

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:

Willam Earley – Chairperson (appointed 30 September 2023)

Tara Sherlock – Chair of the Audit Committee

Massimiliano Boccalari

Derek O'Leary – Vice Chairperson 2023/2024

Sonya Ryan – Chair of the Governance Committee

Avril Byrne

David Mullins

Richa Tyagi

Deirdre O'Donovan – (appointed at the AGM 30 September 2023)

Catherine Corr – (appointed at the AGM 30 September 2023)

Sue Kennedy Hughes – (resigned at the AGM 30 September 2023)

Cáit Delaney – (resigned at the AGM 30 September 2023)

Laurence Keaveney – (resigned at the AGM 30 September 2023)

Day to day running of the Council is managed by the Chief Executive Aine 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 complies with the Charities Regulators Governance Code for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. The Council confirms that a review of the organisation's compliance with the principles in the Code was conducted on 29 September 2023. This review was based on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. The review sets out actions and completion dates for any issues that the assessment identifies need to be addressed. All actions from the previous review have now been completed. The next review is due to take place during 2024.

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.

The board nomination process has followed a process in accordance with the NPC Constitution which provided for the members of the NPC to nominate people for election to the board. Following the nomination stage, no nominees were submitted by the members. The board therefore appointed two parents to fill the casual vacancies that arose. These board members were recruited mindful of continuity of board membership, NPC's extended remit and an opportunity for parents on NPC's database to express an interest.

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 (National Parents Council) 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. In addition subject to the provisions of Article 28 of the Council's Constitution the Directors have the power, at any time and from time to time, to appoint any person to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy in the eight Directors at the AGM. These Directors appointed must retire at the next AGM of the Council.

The board are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the National Parents Council – Primary (National Parents Council). This is in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the National Parents Council - Primary (National Parents Council) Governing Handbook. At present the board has ten members, five appointed in general meetings, three co-opted by the directors for a one year term to fill casual vacancies 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 **21** membership.

Key risks

In December 2022, NPC was formally requested by the Department of Education to extend its remit and support to post primary parents with immediate effect. NPC amended its Constitution and Risk Register to ensure that the required protections were in place. The development of the Staff Team, which included new members and roles, was approved. Before NPC could fully extend its remit to post primary parents, the Company adopted a new registered business name (National Parents Council) and rebranding. The main areas of risk identified were:

- Rebranding of the organisation may lead to some initial identity confusion with primary parents, parent associations and key stakeholders.
- Expanding the remit of the organisation in the short time frame requested by the Department of Education due the emerging circumstances creates a pressure on the organisation to maintain high standards of service provision whilst growing our provision with a short lead in time for planning.

Objectives and activities

The main object for which the Council is established is to contribute to the advancement of the education of all children in order to improve and enrich the education of each child and to support the involvement of parents at all stages of such 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 and post 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 surplus of €161,798 in the year (2022: Surplus of €40,246). This was due in the main to the mid-year agreement with the Department of Education on the additional funding for NPC's extended remit and the challenging recruitment environment, resulting in appointment delays.

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

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. As at 31 December 2023, the reserves total approximately seven and half months' expenditure. This is due to increased funding for the extended remit of the Council to post primary, however completion of name changes delayed expansion and therefore expenditure. The expenditure of these expansion funds has been planned and will take place in 2024.

Accounting records

The directors believe that they have complied with the requirement of Sections 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.

Going concern

The National Parents Council had net assets of €551,383 as of the 31st of December 2023.

The directors of NPC have assessed the ability of the Council to continue as a going concern. This assessment encompassed a detailed recent review of the future outlook of the Company which demonstrates that the Company should have adequate resources to continue operating for at least the 12-month period from the date of approval of the financial statements. The basis for this assumption is confirmation from the Department of Education of continued funding to the end of 2024 and an expectation of continued support from them to provide core funding to NPC for the next twelve months from the approval of the financial statements based on the long funding history.

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

Plans for future periods

No subsequent events have taken place since the year end that would result in adjustments to these financial statements.

Due to the rapidly changing environment impacting the National Parents Council the Board delayed its development of a new Strategic Plan until 2024. Following extensive consultation in the first four months of 2024, the Board of NPC are currently in the final stages of agreeing its new Strategy which will direct the work of NPC from 2024-2028.

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 auditor is aware of that information.

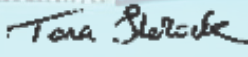
In so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's statutory auditor is unaware.

Auditor

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

On behalf of the Board


William Earley
Director Director


Tara Sherlock
5 July 2024

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 profit or loss for that year.

In preparing the 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


William Earley
Director



Tara Sherlock 5 July 2024



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

We have audited the financial statements of National Parents Council - Primary ('the Company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 11 to 23, which comprise the Statement of financial activities, Balance sheet, 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 issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- the financial statements 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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 undertaken during the course of the audit, 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; and
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Our opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014 are unmodified

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 7, 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://iaasa.ie/publications/description-of-the-auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements/>

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.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard N. Hobson".

Richard Hobson
for and on behalf of
KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm
1 Stokes Place
St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
D02 DE03

24 June 2024



Statement of financial activities

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	*Restricted funds	**Unrestricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	€	€	€	€
Income from				
Charitable activities				
- sponsoring bodies	412,019	551,000	963,019	801,937
Other trading activities				
- membership fees	-	78,218	78,218	81,733
- course fees	-	7,975	7,975	5,300
Investment income	-	77	77	63
Corporate trading income	-	1,722	1,722	-
Other income	-	657	657	2,769
Total incoming resources	412,019	639,649	1,051,668	891,802
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	(412,019)	(477,851)	(889,870)	(851,556)
Total resources expended	(412,019)	(477,851)	(889,870)	(851,556)
Net income for the year	-	161,798	161,798	40,246
Total funds brought forward	-	389,585	389,585	349,339
Total funds carried forward	-	551,383	551,383	389,585

There are no other comprehensive income and losses for the current or preceding financial year.

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 2023

	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	18,342	11,094
Current assets Cash at bank and in hand	609,501	461,569
Debtors	19,366	18,005
	628,867	479,574
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(92,417)	(94,602)
Net current assets	536,450	384,972
Total assets less current liabilities	554,792	396,066
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(3,409)	(6,481)
Net assets	551,383	389,585
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds	551,383	389,585
Accumulated surplus	551,383	389,585

On behalf of the Board

William Earley
William Earley
Director

Tara Sherlock
Tara Sherlock

5 July 2024

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2023

Laurence Keaveney resigned 30.09.2023

Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 5/5

Expenses €118

Massimiliano Boccalari

Board meeting attendance 3/7

Expenses €0

Avril Byrne

Board meeting attendance 4/7

Expenses €0

Catherine Corr appointed 30.09.2023

Board meeting attendance 1/2

Expenses €0

Cáit Delaney resigned 30.09.2023

Board meeting attendance 5/5

Expenses €0

William Earley appointed 30.09.2023

Board meeting attendance 3/3

Expenses €0

Sue Kennedy Hughes resigned 30.09.2023

Board meeting attendance 4/4

Expenses €0

David Mullins

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €0

Deirdre O'Donovan appointed 30.09.2023

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0

Derek O'Leary

Board meeting attendance 4/7

Expenses €0

Sonya Ryan

Board meeting attendance 2/7

Expenses €0

Tara Sherlock

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €0

Richa Tyagi appointed 30.09.2023

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0

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

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023

Audit Committee

Tara Sherlock (Chair) 3/3

Cáit Delaney 3/3

Larry Keaveney 2/3

David Mullins 3/3

Richa Tyagi 2/3

Governance Committee

Sonya Ryan (Chair) 2/2

Max Boccalari 1/2

Avril Byrne 2/2

Larry Keaveney 2/2

Sue Kennedy Hughes 2/2

NPC STAFF



Áine Lynch

Rob Walpole

Catherine Cross

Margaret Bolger

Carmel O'Shea

Veena Chenneti

Anthony Murphy

Baha Ebdeir

René O'Malley

Michelle Scanlan

Cairene Whiteside

Michelle Davern

Sharon Hopkins

David Perkins

Marion O'Brien

Facundo Furtado

Chief Executive

Deputy Chief Executive

Services Manager

Early Years Services Manager

Advocacy Services Manager

Financial Administrator

Communications and Membership Officer

Inclusion, Voice & Influence Officer

Helpline Officer

Helpline Officer

Helpline Officer

Administrative Officer

Training Administrator

Administrator

Administrator

Administrator



NPC

SUPPORTING PARENTS
SUPPORTING CHILDREN

If you would like to contact us...

National Parents Council
12 Marlborough Court
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Dublin 1 D01 XP86
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Email: info@npc.ie

Helpline:
Tel: +353 1 887 4477
Email: helpline@npc.ie

Website: www.npc.ie



NPC

Early Years



NPC

Primary



NPC

Post Primary