



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children



National Parents Council Primary **Annual Review 2016**



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Registered Name

National Parents Council – Primary

Directors

Robert Grier (Chairperson)
 Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan
 Sheila Donohoe
 Aisling Lawton
 Damian Murray
 Mary O'Mahony
 Dermot O'Riordan
 Catherine White Byrne
 Sarah Lee Kiely
 Pirooz Daneshmandi

Company Secretary

Áine Lynch

Registered Office

12 Marlborough Court
 Marlborough Street
 Dublin 1

Auditor

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

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
 Walkinstown
 Dublin 12

Solicitors

Arthur Cox Solicitors
 Earlsfort Centre
 Earlsfort Terrace
 Dublin 2

MacGeehin Toale
 10 Prospect Road
 Glasnevin
 Dublin 9

Charity Reference Number

CHY 10547

Registered Charity Number

20027032

Companies Registration Number

258148

Overview of National Parents Council Primary

OUR VISION

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



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

OUR MISSION

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

VALUES

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

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

Chairman's Report



It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to present the 2016 Annual Review of the National Parents Council Primary (NPC). Considerable progress has been made at every level in the organisation over the last twelve months as we have continued to work to meet the ambitious targets that we set in our strategy; "Supporting Parents, Supporting Children".

In NPC's constant commitment to providing quality services, the organisation has continued to build on its programme of internal review and evaluation during 2016. In addition to its ongoing and continuous evaluation of its training programmes; NPC implemented a review of its Special Interest Groups, which showed a good level of satisfaction in the current structures, it also provided a clear vision for future development. In addition to this review and as part of the financial audit process, NPC initiated an audit of its IT systems which was conducted by KPMG. The audit showed that NPC is diligent in its IT processes and is committed to building on a number of recommendations from the audit to further improve NPC's IT security and infrastructure, building resilience for future needs in the uncertain cyber environment.

NPC takes its Corporate Governance responsibilities seriously. NPC Board of Directors spent considerable efforts in its commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance during 2016. In this context adherence to the Voluntary Governance Code for charitable and voluntary organisations was reviewed.

During 2016, the Board met on six occasions. Following a review on Board effectiveness, which was conducted as part of the process of adopting the Governance code, the Board proposed to its members, at an Extraordinary General Meeting, to reduce the membership of the NPC Board. The membership approved the proposal and the Board is now comprised of eight members who were elected from the NPC Assembly and were all parents of children in primary school and two members who were co-opted onto

the Board for their specific skills and experience as provided for in the revised Articles of Association. The Board had three committees which all operated to terms of reference that were approved by the Board, and each committee's Chairman was formally elected and reports to the Board. The Board committees are: Audit, Governance and Membership/Communications. 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.

Our 'Supporting Parents, Supporting Children' strategy has guided the organisation in its work throughout 2016 and focuses on ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Board of NPC is committed to providing a range of quality supports and services to parents in the most innovative and accessible means available. In 2017 NPC will enter in to the final year of this strategy and will be engaging with parents and other stakeholders in developing its next strategy, to ensure parents are in the best position to support their children through the many facets of primary education.

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. 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 take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution provided by the members of the Board who provide their own individual expertise in guiding the organisation through another year of growth and development.

Robert Grier
Chairman

Chief Executive Officer's Report



In 2016 NPC saw a major step towards realising its four year legislation campaign seeking a stronger legal basis to confirm parents' role in their children's education within the school. On December 5th 2016, the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D., published the *General Scheme of an Education (Parent and Student Charter) Bill 2016*, the draft outline of a new law, which will require every school to consult with parents and students, and publish and operate a Parent and Student Charter. This marked an exciting time for NPC acting as advocates on behalf of parents and children in primary education and we look forward to working with the Minister and his Department in 2017 in developing guidelines to support the implementation of the legislation when enacted.

'Supporting Parents, Supporting Children', NPC's Strategic Plan, continued to guide the activities and direction of NPC's work throughout 2016. The year again was a very busy one with the Helpline answering over 1,700 calls and emails and over 8,100 parents attending training sessions all around the country. The mental health and well-being in its first full year of operation was the most sought after training in 2016 with 2,331 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. NPC volunteers also continued to support parents by co-ordinating and running the network of NPC County Branches, through engaging in the Assembly debates and policy formation, and through the strong governance of NPC by the Board of Directors.

Yet again NPC had a very successful conference schedule with both its Education Conference in June and its Special Education Conference in November drawing parents from all over the country, covering topics such as mental health and wellbeing, nutrition, music therapy and equal rights for all children.

Representing parents' voices in primary education is a key purpose of NPC and we continue to develop our capacity in hearing how parents and children experience the primary education system. In 2016 we heard from over eighteen thousand (18,726) parents, children and teachers through our surveys which included the first survey to ask related questions of parents, children and teachers. The survey was conducted in the area of homework and showed interesting results that represented the voices of over nine thousand (9,418) respondents.

During 2016, the education sector also saw some significant developments in which NPC has played its part in developing over the years. In particular the enactment of Part Five of the Teaching Council Act was an important milestone which has provided a mechanism by which, for the first time, any person including a parent, a member of the public, an employer or a teacher is now able to make a complaint to the Teaching Council about a registered teacher. Complaints are possible under a number of headings, including professional misconduct and poor professional performance. This is an important development that will help to ensure that high standards of teaching in Ireland will be upheld and that a transparent and accountable system is available to be used where this high standard is not being maintained.

In closing I would like to thank the Chairman and the Board for their continued work and support in leading the organisation and I would like to thank the staff and volunteers for their enormous efforts during 2016. I could not finish my acknowledgments without making special reference to two staff members who left NPC during 2016, Deirdre Sullivan and Carmel Grahame. Both members have been with the organisation for many years playing key roles in its development. NPC owes a huge gratitude to both Carmel and Deirdre for their commitment to NPC and we wish them much happiness in their futures.

Áine Lynch Chief Executive

Special Interest Groups

NPC has a number of special interest groups for members; being part of a special interest group provides an opportunity for parents to explore the particular issues pertaining to their group and to exchange information and ideas to further benefit the education and wellbeing of their children.

The **Special Educational Needs Group** represents parents of children with special educational needs. During 2016 the group supported the development of a Special Education section of the NPC website dedicated to parents of children with special educational needs and inputted into the National Council for Special Education's (NCSE) consultation on the Special Needs Assistants (SNA) scheme. NPC Assembly members to represent both special schools and integrated education were elected.

The **Minority Religion Group** represents parents of children belonging to a religious minority. The group met in 2016 to discuss issues relating to inclusion and patronage.

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

The **Irish Medium Schools Group** represents parents of children who are educated through the medium of Irish. In 2016 the group looked at language resource services for children in Gaelscoileanna. They also discussed communication challenges experienced by some parents where meetings in schools are conducted through the medium of Irish only.





Helpline

The Helpline Service showed a slight increase in the number of calls and emails responded to in 2016 compared to the previous year. Of significance is the increase in supports on issues relating to Parents Associations, up nearly 11% on 2015. There was a considerable increase in the number of calls relating to voluntary contributions, up over 266% previous year.



Helpline statistics 2016

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2016
BULLYING	
Bullying involving a child	77
Bullying involving a teacher	13
Principal/Board of Management not implementing Anti-Bullying policy	4
Total	94

ISSUE	
Supervision	11
Complaints procedure	93
Homework	4
Code of behaviour	33
Split classes	8
Uniforms	7
Class size	12
Enrolment	35
Curriculum	12
Time in school	4
Standardised tests	1
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	6
Health and safety	35
Retention	4
Book rental schemes	9
School transport	4
School closures	1
Voluntary contribution	33
Total	312

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2016
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT	
General	37
Complaints	17
Total	54

PARENT ASSOCIATION	
Set up	44
Disputes	57
Financial issues	125
NPC Membership	102
Rules/Roles	255
Information	287
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	7
Training	156
Insurance	26
Total	1,059

SPECIAL NEEDS	
Special Needs General	61
Assessment	14
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	2
Access to school	2
Professional resources	6
Total	85
Other	100

Total	1,704
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Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2016.

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 2016

NPC provided 520 training sessions to parents in schools right across Ireland in 2016. A number of training courses saw an increase in delivery of greater than 10% from 2015, namely Parent Association, Mental Health and Wellbeing, also Internet Safety training. In 2016 NPC offered eight different training programmes for parents countrywide.

Anti-Bullying Training

The session enabled parents to support their children regarding issues of bullying and also informed them about the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools.

Parents' Association / Parental Involvement Training

This programme gives information and guidance to new and established Parents' Associations. The aim of the session 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 supported and facilitated groups in developing a positive partnership in the school as a community. This training was open to all partners in education: parents, principals, teachers and members of school Boards of Management.

Board of Management Training

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

Internet Safety Training

This programme focuses on strategies for both improving communication between parents and children and negotiating boundaries to their children's internet use. Parents were given the skills to engage with their children's online lives. Through the training parents were 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.

Parenting – Supporting your Child to Build Healthy Friendships and Relationships

Parents were able to attend an information session which informed them about the Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) curriculum or a more detailed parenting programme which also explored relationship building and positive communication.

Supporting Parents to Support their Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing

This programme supports parents to encourage and promote positive mental health and wellbeing with their children. It also explores how the building of resilience in children helps them to manage and cope with the day to day stresses of life as they occur.





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 with their child's transition and gave them useful information on subject choices and an insight into the post primary education system.

Whole School Evaluation (WSE) Training

This programme provides information and support for parents on the WSE process. The training programme enables parents to understand what a Whole School Evaluation is, the role of parents in their schools' WSE and how it is carried out and managed. This programme is available to parents, teachers, principals and Board members in individual schools countrywide.

TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2016

Type of Training	Number of Sessions Delivered	Number of Attendees
Parent Association Training	153	1,417
Board of Management	14	93
Transition from Primary to Post Primary	63	852
Internet Safety	113	1,571
Parenting Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships	Information Sessions 9	155
	Training Programme 14	421
Supporting Parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing	85	2,331
Whole School Evaluation	4	16
Anti Bullying Training	65	1,288
Overall Totals	520	8,144



Partnership Schools Ireland

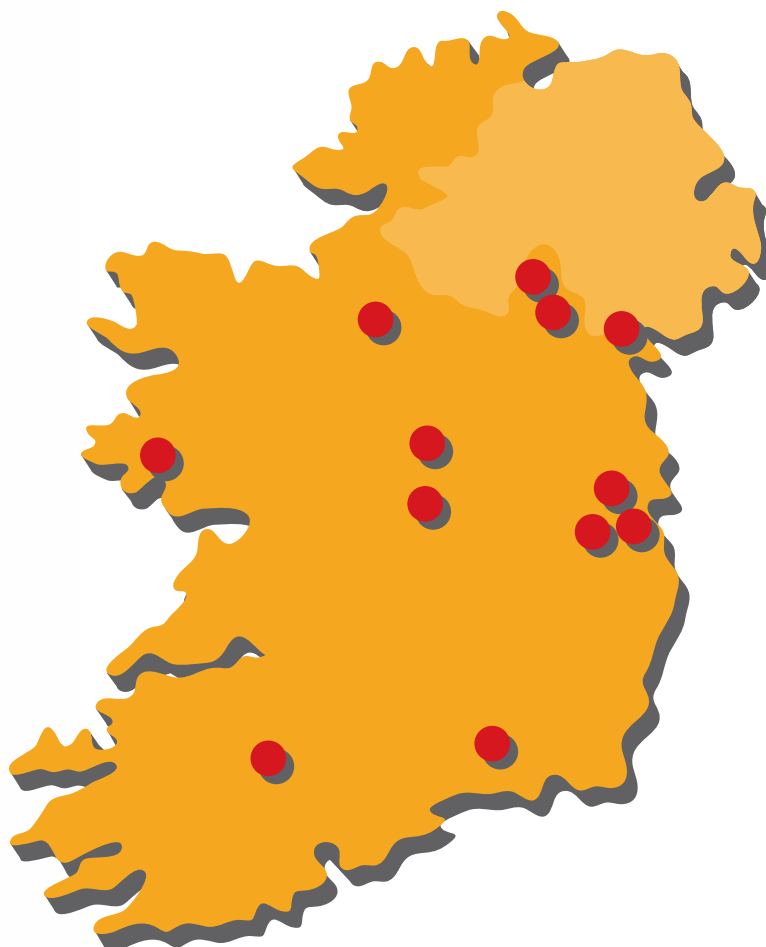
Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) follows an evidence based programme that originates in the USA. The idea is primarily the work of Doctor Joyce Epstein, Director of the Centre on School, Family and Community Partnerships for John Hopkins University in Baltimore. It has been researched for more than thirty years.

Background

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) supports teachers, parents, pupils and community representatives to work in partnership to deliver better outcomes for children across curriculum, behavioural and school environment goals. The project is underpinned by the belief that children will do better when the school, parents, community and the children work together through the Action Team for Partnership (ATP), on shared planning, goal setting and delivering change in school.

PSI is a joint initiative with the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN).

By the end of 2016 there were twelve Partnership schools in the country.



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 2016 continued to communicate with parents and children via annual conferences, the website and surveys.

CONFERENCES

Education Conference 2016

The NPC Conference 'Ready, Steady, Learn! - Parents supporting their Children's Healthy Learning' took place in the National College of Ireland, Dublin on Saturday the 28th of May. The Keynote speaker was Shane Martin with his presentation 'Positive Parenting - Harnessing Strengths within Children' Shane is a leading psychologist within the area of education.



L-R: NPC Chairman, Robert Grier, Keynote Speaker, Shane Martin and NPC CEO, Aine Lynch

In the afternoon Paula Mee, Dietician presented 'Ready to learn? Feeding our future: On nutritional issues for children' and Oisín McGann, bestselling and award-winning writer and illustrator gave an entertaining insight into how to promote creativity at home in his presentation 'Making Stuff Up'. The NPC CEO gave a brief presentation on the results of a Homework Survey with responses from Children, Parents and Teachers.



L-R: NPC Chairman, Robert Grier, Speakers Paula Mee & Oisín McGann with NPC CEO, Aine Lynch.

NPC Fred O'Connell Award 2016

The NPC Fred O'Connell Award was awarded at the NPC Conference, recognising innovative partnership between parents and schools. The Award seeks to shine a light on the excellent partnership work that we know Parents' Associations are engaging in across Ireland.

There were two 1st Place Winners, the Parents' Association of St. Kevin's National School, Greystones, Co. Wicklow with their project 'Healthy Mind Healthy Body Week' and the Parents' Association of St. Colmcille's National Schools, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 with their entry 'Connecting Parents and helping Parents Connect'. In 2nd place was the Parents' Association of Newtown Junior School in New Ross, Co. Wexford, with their project based around the organisation and upkeep of a school garden. In 3rd place was the Parents' Association of St. Patrick's National School,



Baconstown, Enfield whose project focussed on the school library. Three other Parents' Associations were awarded certificates of achievement for their entries to the Award.



Joint 1st place winners of the NPC Fred O'Connell Award, the P.A. of St. Colmcille's National School, Knocklyon. Award accepted by Yvonne Dunne.



Joint 1st place winners of the NPC Fred O'Connell Award, the P.A. of St. Kevin's National School, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Award accepted by Susan Taylor and Nuala Tuffy.

Special Education Conference 2016

In November, NPC held its annual Special Education Conference 'Getting it right for children'. Guest speakers included Dr. Niall Muldoon the Ombudsman for Children with a presentation entitled 'Equal Rights to Education for all Children?' and Bill Ahessy, Senior Music Therapist registered with the Irish Association for Creative Art Therapists (IACAT) 'Therapeutic Music Activities for Children with Special Needs'.



L-R: Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, NPC CEO, Áine Lynch and Bill Ahessy, Senior Music Therapist.

In the afternoon a National Council for Special Education (NCSE) consultation session with parents took place on the Special Needs Assistants (SNA) scheme. The feedback from this session informed the NCSE's review of the SNA scheme.

Website

The NPC website www.npc.ie aims to provide parents with information regarding primary education. The NPC website is our main communication hub and shows up-to-date newsfeeds on issues of interest to parents of primary school children.

In 2016 the website was redeveloped in an attempt to make it easier for users to find information. A new **Training & Online Resources section** was created and a dedicated **Special Education section**.

During 2016 the website had 42,237 users an increase of 7,424 from the previous year, 68.8% of whom were new to the site.

Surveys

NPC gives parents the opportunity to share their views with NPC regarding primary education issues by way of surveys promoted on the website and circulated to members. The results of the surveys may form the basis of submissions to the Department of Education and Skills and other relevant organisations.

Survey Title	Number of Responses
NPC Homework Survey for Children	2,330
NPC Homework Survey for Parents	5,752
NPC Homework Survey for Teachers & Principals	1,336
Special Interest Group Review	87
Walk in My Shoes	1,233
Science Foundation Ireland Survey	568
After School Care: Parents' views and needs	1,770
School Uniform costs	4,818
Tell us about your child's Rural or Island school	832
Total	18,726



Volunteering

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

In 2016 NPC had County Branches in Cavan, Clare, Cork East, Cork West, Donegal, Dublin North, Dublin North West, Dublin South, Dublin South West, Kildare, Laois, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Sligo, Tipperary and Wexford.

During 2016, NPC County Branches hosted events for NPC representatives and other parents who wanted to find out more about their role within NPC. Those in attendance had the opportunity to find out how NPC works on behalf of parents and children.

Training sessions were arranged by the counties and delivered to parents and Parents' Associations on issues such as:

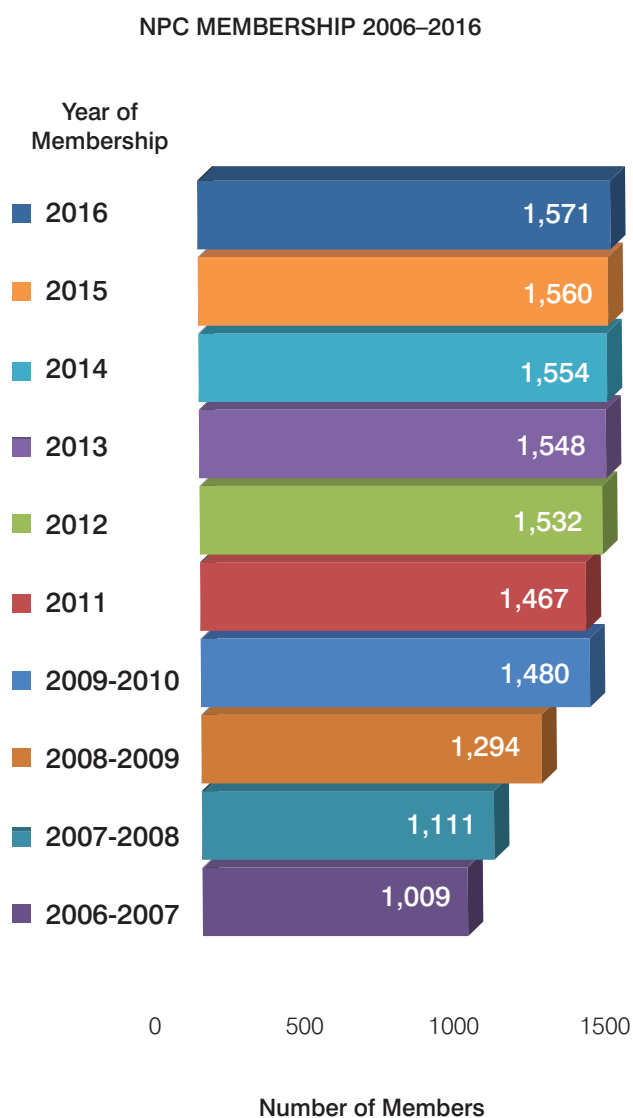
- Internet Safety
- Anti-Bullying
- Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary School
- Board of Management.



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.



The table below shows the membership for each county during 2016.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2016

County	Number of Members
Carlow	27
Cavan	40
Clare	32
Cork East	80
Cork West	133
Donegal	62
Dublin N	69
Dublin NW	31
Dublin S	73
Dublin SW	46
Galway	88
Kerry	71
Kildare	64
Kilkenny	42
Laois	34
Leitrim	17
Limerick	81
Longford	20
Louth	50
Mayo	42
Meath	70
Monaghan	33
Offaly	30
Roscommon	27
Sligo	35
Tipperary	99
Waterford	38
Westmeath	31
Wexford	59
Wicklow	44
Associate	3
Total	1,571



Assembly

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

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

The Assembly met four times in 2016 to allow members to fully engage in educational issues of importance; ensuring that when NPC speaks on behalf of parents it can do so knowing that the issues have been considered and debated by the Assembly on behalf of NPC members.

At the first meeting of the year the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) consulted Assembly members regarding 'Education about Religions and Beliefs (ERB) and Ethics and the new curriculum'.

The next meeting looked further at this issue and also the issue of 'Progress reporting to Parents and the Education Passport'.

The third meeting saw the Assembly developing a policy on 'Enrolment in primary schools and patron requirements'.

At the final meeting the Assembly met to provide nominations to the NPC Board and look at the policy area of homework.



Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2016

I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee, NPC Chairman Robert Grier, Damian Murray and Maurice Dockrell, 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 2016 as shown in this Financial Report. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 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 2016.

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 period are listed on **page 1**.

On 24 September 2016, Maurice Dockrell and Teresa Doyle retired as directors of the Council, and Sarah Lee Kiely and Pirooz Daneshmandi 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 of the financial statements.

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 26 June 2015. 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.

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

The Board is committed to achieving high standards of governance. Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the 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) on the nomination of the Assembly and up to two of whom may be co-opted by the Board of Directors.

The Board are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the National Parents Council - Primary. This is in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the National Parents Council - Primary Governing Handbook. At present the Board has ten members, eight appointed in general meeting and two co-opted by the appointed Directors. The Board met six times during 2016.

Audit Committee

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

Chief Executive

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

Key risks

The key risks facing the Council are that its core projects and activities are reliant on continued government funding.

The directors confirm that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the Council.

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 surplus of €34,667 in the year (2015: *surplus of €30,797*).

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

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

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

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

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. In so far 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

Robert Grier

Director

Dermot O'Riordan

Director

16 June 2017

Date

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

We have audited the financial statements ("financial statements") of National Parents Council - Primary for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. 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*. Our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK & Ireland).

OPINIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ARISING FROM OUR AUDIT

1. Our opinion on the financial statements is unmodified

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 2016 and of its surplus 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.

2. Our conclusions on other matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014 are set out below

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.

In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements

3. We have nothing to report in respect of matters on which we are required to report by exception

ISAs (UK & Ireland) require that we report to you if, based on the knowledge we acquired during our audit, we have identified information in the annual report that contains a material inconsistency with either that knowledge or the financial statements, a material misstatement of fact, or that is otherwise misleading.

In addition, 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.

BASIS OF OUR REPORT, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

An audit undertaken in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland) involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors' report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge

acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Whilst an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland) is designed to provide reasonable assurance of identifying material misstatements or omissions it is not guaranteed to do so. Rather the auditor plans the audit to determine the extent of testing needed to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements does not exceed materiality for the financial statements as a whole. This testing requires us to conduct significant audit work on a broad range of assets, liabilities, income and expense as well as devoting significant time of the most experienced members of the audit team, in particular the engagement partner responsible for the audit, to subjective areas of the accounting and reporting.

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.

Paul J. O'Brien

for and on behalf of

KPMG

Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm

1 Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2

16 June 2017

Date

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS

for the year ended 31 December 2016

	*Restricted funds 2016 €	**Unrestricted funds 2016 €	Total funds 2016 €	Total funds 2015 €
Incoming resources				
- Income from sponsoring bodies	241,230	331,000	572,230	587,905
- Membership fees	-	102,425	102,425	100,524
- Course fees	-	21,417	21,417	20,200
- Publication sales	-	760	760	450
- Investment income	-	272	272	1,196
- Other income	-	-	-	75
Total incoming resources	241,230	455,874	697,104	710,350
Resources expended				
Council related activities	(241,230)	(381,425)	(622,655)	(635,113)
Governance costs	-	(39,782)	(39,782)	(44,440)
Total resources expended	(241,230)	(421,207)	(662,437)	(679,553)
Surplus for the year	-	34,667	34,667	30,797
Total funds brought forward	-	340,763	340,763	309,966
Total funds carried forward	-	375,430	375,430	340,763

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.

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier
Director

Dermot O’Riordan
Director

16 June 2017
Date

Explanation of some terms in the Financial Report

Income accounting

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

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

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the Council. These costs normally include internal and external audit, legal advice for directors and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements, for example the cost of directors’ meetings and preparing statutory accounts.

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2016

	31 December 2016 €	31 December 2015 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	15,259	9,273
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	453,591	395,156
Debtors and prepayments	11,734	21,318
	465,325	416,474
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(94,827)	(84,091)
Net current assets	370,498	332,383
Total assets less current liabilities	385,757	341,656
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(10,327)	(893)
Net assets	375,430	340,763
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds	375,430	340,763
Accumulated surplus	375,430	340,763

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier
Director

Dermot O’Riordan
Director

16 June 2017
Date

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2016

Robert Grier

Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €761.35

Maurice Dockrell to 24.9.2016

Board meeting attendance 4/4

Expenses €0

Terri Doyle to 24.9.2016

Board meeting attendance 2/4

Expenses €412.32

Aisling Lawton

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €0

Sheila Donohoe

Vice Chairperson since 14.10.2016

Board meeting attendance 4/6

Expenses €1,253.05

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €0

Mary O'Mahony

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €1,205.09

Catherine White Byrne

Board meeting attendance 4/6

Expenses €824.53

Damian Murray

Board meeting attendance 4/6

Expenses €0

Dermot O'Riordan

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €178.38

Pirooz Daneshmandi elected 24.9.2016

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0

Sarah Lee Kiely elected 24.9.2016

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0

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

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016

Audit Committee

- Dermot O'Riordan (Chairperson) 4/4
- Robert Grier 2/4
- Damian Murray 4/4
- Maurice Dockrell 2/3
- Aisling Lawton 1/1

Communications & Media

Strategy Committee

- Mary O'Mahony 3/3
- Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan 3/3
- Terri Doyle 2/3

Governance Committee

- Aisling Lawton (Chairperson) 1/2
- Robert Grier 2/2
- Sheila Donohoe 2/2
- Catherine Whyte-Byrne 2/2

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS DURING 2016

Each County Branch may nominate up to two parents to act as Assembly Representatives and each Special Interest Group may nominate one parent to act as an Assembly Representative.

Cavan	Limerick
Catherine White Byrne	Sarah Lee Kiely
Cork East	Louth
Mary O'Mahony	Emma Quigley
Tom Evans	Wendy Geraghty
Dublin North	Sligo
Rolf Mueller	Miriam Brandt
Dublin NW	Wexford
Pirooz Daneshmandi	Debbie Rossiter
Debbie Solinas	Integrated Education Group
Kildare	Sinead McGee
Elizabeth Bracken	Special Education Group
Deirdre O'Donovan	Paul Geoghegan
Laois	
Margaret Greene	
Joanna Shore	

STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Liz O'Sullivan	Services Manager
Richard Quinn	Financial Administrator
Carmel O'Shea	Helpline Officer
Nnenne Ibezim	Helpline Officer
Liam McPherson	Partnership Schools Coordinator
Deirdre Sullivan	Partnership Schools Ireland
Rebecca Byrne	Development Officer
Michelle Davern	Administrative Officer
Sharon Hopkins	Training Administrator
David Perkins	Administrator
Marion O'Brien	Administrator
Jelena Pisareva	Office Cleaner



If you would like to contact us...

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