



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children



National Parents Council Primary **Annual Review 2017**



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Registered Name

National Parents Council – Primary

Directors

Robert Grier (Chairperson)
Miriam Brandt
Pirooz Daneshmandi
Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan
Sheila Donohoe
Paul Geoghegan
Aisling Lawton
Damian Murray
Dermot O'Riordan
Catherine White Byrne

Company Secretary

Áine Lynch

Registered Office

12 Marlborough Court
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Auditor

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

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Walkinstown
Dublin 12

Solicitors

Arthur Cox Solicitors
Earlsfort Centre
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2

Charity Reference Number

CHY 10547

Registered Charity Number

20027032

Companies Registration Number

258148

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 2017 Annual Review of the National Parents Council Primary (NPC). Considerable progress was made at every level in the organisation over the last twelve months and I am pleased to report that NPC has now delivered on its Strategic Objectives as set out in 'Supporting Parents, Supporting Children' 2012-2017.

During 2017 the NPC Board made the significant decision to extend its services to parents of children in Early Years education. NPC has continuously endeavoured to offer support to parents whose children are transitioning from early years settings to primary school but with financial support from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, NPC has now been able to employ a full-time staff member to specifically support this development further. We look forward to continuously building and developing this area of NPC's work over the coming years.

With the full delivery of 'Supporting Parents, Supporting Children' 2017 was an important year for the Board in developing its strategic direction and priorities for the next period. The NPC Board with support from the executive undertook a period of extensive consultation during 2017 to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders were considered in developing NPC's key future priorities. In all, over 2,500 people's voices and opinions contributed to developing the Board's final strategy. The Board believe that NPC's new strategy 'Parents as Partners: Children, Schools and Communities 2018-2022', is an exciting plan for the future of NPC and sets a direction that will see parents, children and schools working more closely together in the future for the benefit of all children.

As well as looking to the future in 2017, NPC continued in its commitment to providing quality services; the organisation has continued to build on its programme of internal review during 2017 and has developed its internal evaluation mechanisms in all aspects of its service delivery.

NPC takes its Corporate Governance responsibilities seriously. The NPC Board of Directors spent considerable efforts in its commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance during 2017. In this context NPC re-evaluated its adherence to the Voluntary Governance Code for charitable and voluntary organisations as it is required to do every three years and the Board submitted its compliance statement to the Governance Code.

During 2017, the Board met on six occasions to conduct its business. The Board also 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. 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.

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 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 another year of growth and development.

Robert Grier
Chairman



Chief Executive Officer's Report

'Supporting Parents, Supporting Children', NPC's Strategic Plan, continued to guide the activities and direction of NPC's work throughout 2017. The year again was a very busy one with the Helpline answering over 1,850 calls and emails and over 7,500 parents attending training sessions all around the country. The mental health and well-being training continues to be the most sought-after training in 2017 with 2,372 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 the children's voice in education, play and storytelling.

Representing the parents' voice in primary education is a key purpose of NPC and we continue to develop our capacity to hear how parents and children experience the primary education system. In 2017 we heard from over ten thousand (10,808) parents and children through our surveys.

One of the most significant developments for NPC in 2017 was its development of a teacher training elective course for student teachers to support their development and understanding in the area of working with parents. NPC believes that supporting teachers in their partnership role with parents is crucial to better outcomes for children. The course was accepted by Froebel and DCU Departments of Education and was delivered to student teachers by NPC staff over two semesters during the year.

During 2017, the education sector also saw some significant developments in which NPC played its part in developing over the years. In particular the new model for the allocation of resource teachers was implemented. This new model removed the necessity for children to have to have a diagnosis to access teaching support if they were having difficulties learning.

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, volunteers and trainers for their enormous efforts during 2017.

Áine Lynch

Chief Executive

Special Interest Groups

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

Non-Religious Special Interest Group:

This group met once during 2017, when parents elected a member to the NPC Assembly and were consulted on 'The role of denominational religion in the school admissions process and possible approaches for making changes'. A lively discussion was held on the topic which informed the NPC submission to the Minister for Education and Skills.

The Special Education Interest Group:

Three meetings of this group took place in 2017. At these meetings parents elected two representatives to the NPC Assembly and discussed the areas of special education provision and resource allocation in primary schools. The group were also involved in the planning of the NPC Conference for parents of children with Special Educational Needs.

NPC Religious Minority Special Interest Group:

One meeting of this group took place in 2017 and parents were consulted on 'The role of denominational religion in the school admissions process and possible approaches for making changes'. The complex issues relating to this topic were discussed and informed the NPC submission to the Minister for Education and Skills.





Helpline

2017 was another busy year on the helpline with the numbers of calls and emails exceeding the numbers of the previous year by 8.6%. In total in 2017 the Helpline dealt with 1,852 calls and emails to the service. The rules/roles of the Parents' Association recorded the highest number of queries for the year with a total of 340 calls and emails. There was also a steady rise in the number of calls from Principals interested in setting up Parents' Associations in their

schools and Parents' Associations interested in becoming members of the National Parents Council Primary.

As in previous years there were many calls and emails regarding the complaints procedure, a total of 111 in 2017. Parents sought support in navigating the complaints process and how best to communicate with the school in relation to concerns they have about their child in the school.

Helpline statistics 2017

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2017
BULLYING	
Bullying involving a child	84
Bullying involving a teacher	18
Cyberbullying	8
Total	110

ISSUE	
Supervision	18
Complaints Procedure	111
Homework	3
Code of Behaviour	35
Split Classes	13
Uniforms	9
Class Size	7
Enrolment	34
Curriculum	18
Time in School	3
Standardised tests	1
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	9
Health and Safety	43
Separated Parents	1
Retention	5
Book Rental Schemes	9
First Holy Communion	1
School Transport	2
School Closures	1
Voluntary Contribution	12
Child Abuse	5
Total	340

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2017
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT	
General	27
Complaints	16
Total	43

PARENT ASSOCIATION	
Set up	58
Disputes	80
Financial Issues	115
NPC Membership	108
Rules/Roles	340
Information	199
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	26
Training	172
Insurance	19
Total	1,117

SPECIAL NEEDS	
Special Needs General	57
Assessment	11
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	3
Access to School	12
Professional Resources	14
Total	97
Other	145

Total	1,852
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Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2017.

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 2017

NPC provided 473 training sessions to parents in schools right across Ireland in 2017. A number of training courses saw an increase in delivery of greater than 10% from 2016, namely, Parenting supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships and Mental Health and Well-being. In 2017 NPC offered nine different training programmes for parents countrywide.

Anti-Bullying Training

This programme 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 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 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 training delivered primarily concentrated on the role and function of the Board of Management as a corporate entity.

Internet Safety Training

This programme focused 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 and what they can do to support their children in building healthy friendships and relationships.

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

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

Transition from Primary to Post Primary Training

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

Whole School Evaluation (WSE) Training

This training programme provided information and support for parents on the WSE process. The programme enabled 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 was available to parents, teachers, principals and Board members in individual schools countrywide.



TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2017

Type of Training		Number of Sessions Delivered	Number of Attendees
Parents' Association Training		140	1,464
Board of Management		1	5
Transition from Primary to Post Primary		52	763
Internet Safety		112	1,658
Parenting Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships	Information Sessions	12	216
	Training Programme	7	243
Supporting Parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing		99	2,372
Whole School Evaluation		3	12
Anti Bullying Training		46	755
Code of Behaviour		1	22
Overall Totals		473	7,510



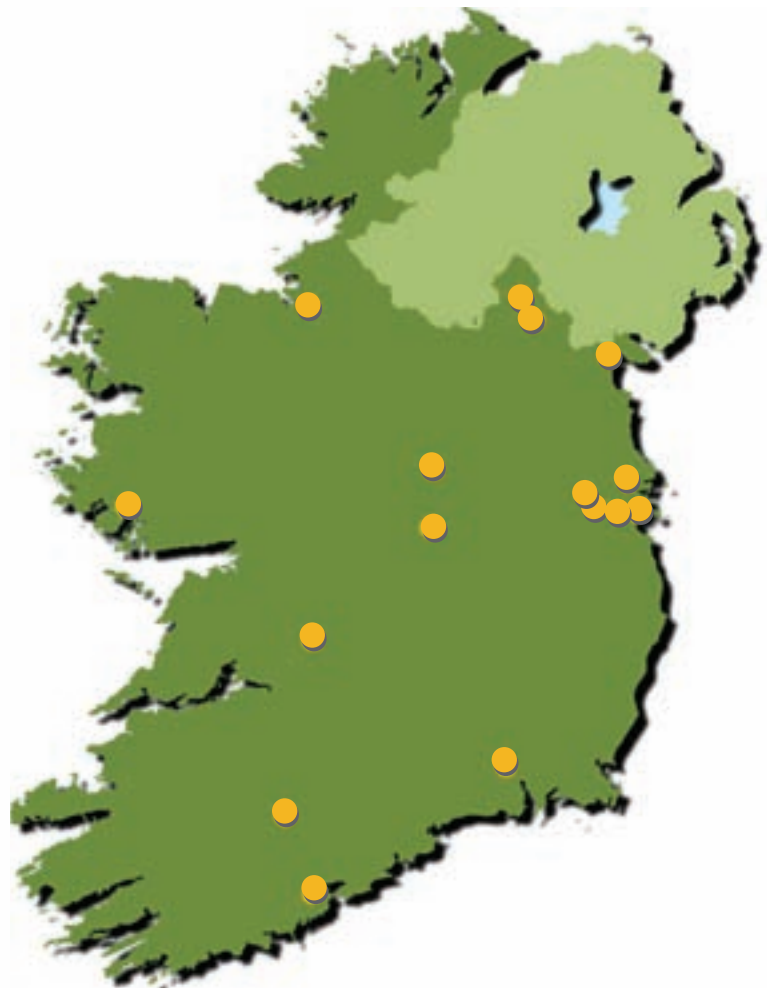
Partnership Schools Ireland

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) follows an evidence based programme which originated in the USA and has been researched for more than thirty years. The programme was developed by Doctor Joyce Epstein and her colleagues in the Center on School, Family and Community Partnerships, John Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) is a joint initiative by the National Parents Council Primary (NPC) and the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN). Working together to achieve better outcomes for children is the main objective of "a Partnership School". This is achieved by the whole school community planning and working in partnership on agreed activities. This work takes place within an Action Team for Partnership in the school.

Throughout 2017, systems and infrastructures were put in place to enable the Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) initiative to be further developed. By the end of 2017 there were a total of sixteen schools participating in the PSI initiative.

PSI provided an opportunity for schools to achieve diverse and often very creative goals involving literacy and spelling, improvement of Maths, mental health and well-being, extending the use of the Irish language, creative use of limited space/rooms and making reception areas more welcoming places.



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 2017 continued to communicate with parents and children via annual conferences, the website and surveys.

CONFERENCES

Education Conference 2017

The NPC Conference 'Shaping the Future' took place in the National College of Ireland, Dublin on Saturday the 10th of June. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Janet Goodall with her presentation 'Narrowing the Gap: Parental Engagement in Children's Learning'. Janet is a lecturer in Educational Leadership and Management in the Department of Education, at the University of Bath.



L-R: NPC CEO Áine Lynch, Keynote Speaker Dr. Janet Goodall and NPC Chairperson Robert Grier.

In the afternoon Mette With Hagensen, President of the Danish Association of School Boards and Parents in Public Schools, Skole og Forældre, which represents a strong voice for parents and is an advocate for close cooperation between schools and parents presented 'Learning through play'. Mette gave an insight to the concept of LEGO six bricks.

Niall de Búrca, a traditional storyteller with a unique style that turns an ancient art form on its head and drives it into the 21st century gave a very entertaining presentation 'In an age of technology there is still one thing that reaches the heart of the family 'Storytelling''. Niall demonstrated this art form in a lively and energetic fashion, showing parents how they too can engage their children through storytelling and by doing so enhance their learning at home.

Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D. gave the conference closing address.



L-R: NPC CEO Áine Lynch, speaker Mette With Hagensen, Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton TD, Keynote Speaker Dr. Janet Goodall, NPC Chairperson Robert Grier and speaker Niall de Búrca.

NPC Innovation Award (Fred O'Connell) 2017

The NPC Innovation 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.

The winner of the award was the Parents' Association of St. Colmcille's Junior and Senior Schools, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, with their project 'Our understanding of a Parents' Association'. The Parents' Association wanted to connect with parents and to help them connect with the school. They wanted to make their members aware of how important a role parents play in their children's education. In order to do this, they changed their mission statement and created a strong visual of what their Parents' Association is, by creating a new logo comprised of the school colours and in the shape of a shamrock representing three intertwined groups; the parents, the students, and the school. They also created a new website for the Parents' Association including a resource page with links to local clubs and sharing details of events in other local schools.

In 2nd place was the Parents' Association of Scoil Íósaf, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork with their project the 'Redevelopment of the School Play Area'. The result of which is a revamped improved play area which is now a massive addition to the school.

In 3rd place was the Parents' Association of Pope John Paul II National School, Swords, Co. Dublin with their entry a 'School-run Road Safety Campaign'. The Parents' Association felt they needed to be more pro-active in both promoting road safety to parents and getting school run drivers to adjust driving behaviour to prevent accidents.

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

1st place winners of the NPC Fred O'Connell Award, the Parents' Association of St. Colmcille's National School, Knocklyon, with NPC CEO Áine Lynch and NPC Chairperson Robert Grier.



Susan Kavanagh representing the Parents' Association of Pope John Paul II National School, Swords, Co. Dublin, 3rd place winners of the NPC Fred O'Connell Award with NPC Chairperson Robert Grier.



Special Education Conference 2017

In November, NPC held its annual Special Education Conference 'The Child's Voice - Making a Difference'. The Keynote Speaker was Adam Harris, Founder and CEO of AslAm.ie, an organisation working to build an Ireland where every person with Autism can "live and succeed as they are".

Other speakers included Ann-Marie Spillane, ISPCC Childline Regional Supervisor in Cork with her presentation "How can parents ensure they are listening to their child's voice". Ann-Marie discussed practical approaches to support parents to involve their children and hear their voices on educational matters that affect them.

Clare Cromie O'Toole, a post-graduate student of Applied Social Research from Trinity College Dublin whose presentation "From Voice to Participation: Exploring Children's Rights in Education" aimed to provide an overview of children's participatory rights, query why children's participation matters and present research regarding the benefits of engaging children's participation in decision-making.

In the afternoon the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) consulted parents regarding the services and supports it provides to students with special educational needs, their families, teachers and schools.

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. During 2017 the website had 40,436 users.

Surveys

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

Survey Title	Number of Responses
Online Safety for children and young adults	1,745
NPC's Strategic Future consultation – general	987
NPC's Strategic Future consultation – members	499
Your parents and you in primary school (NPC's Strategic Future consultation)	1,039
Role of denominational religion in school admissions	3,529
Weight of schoolbags	3,009
Total	10,808



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 2017 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.

NPC County Branches hosted events for NPC members and all parents who wanted to find out more about NPC. Those in attendance had the opportunity to find out how NPC works on behalf of parents and children.

Information/training sessions were arranged by and for 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 well-being
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary School
- Parental Involvement training
- Parenting – Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships

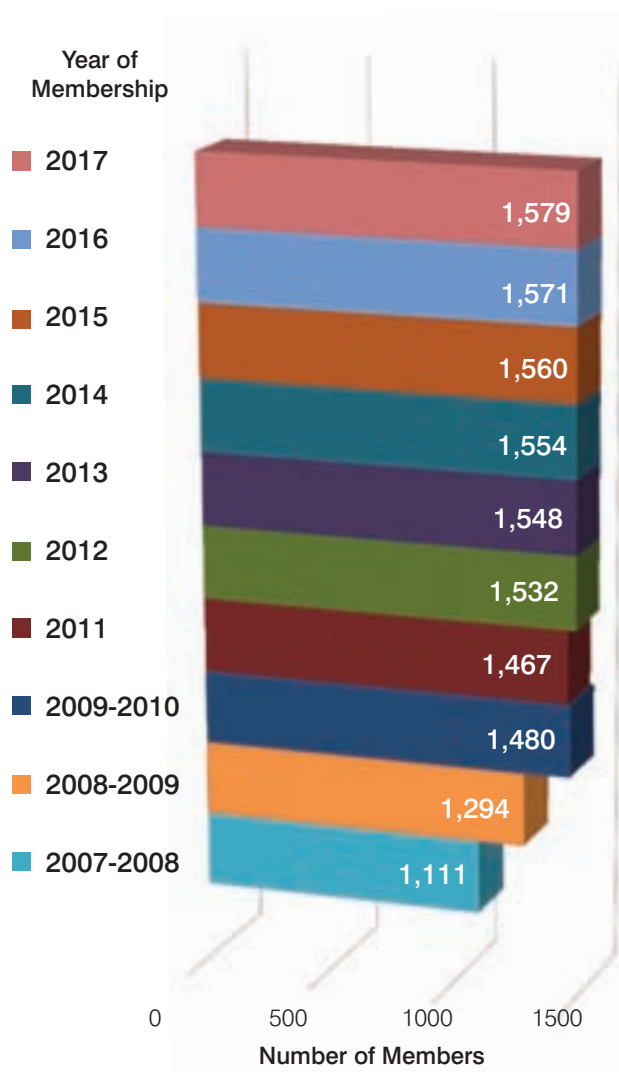
In 2017, NPC County Branch members took part in a consultation which informed the development of our new Strategic Plan 2018-2022. NPC consulted these County Branch members by conducting an online survey and by hosting a face-to-face focus group consultation in Dublin.

Membership

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

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

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2007-2017



The table below shows the membership for each county during 2017.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2017

County	Number of Members
Carlow	26
Cavan	40
Clare	40
Cork East	84
Cork West	123
Donegal	59
Dublin N	68
Dublin NW	36
Dublin S	76
Dublin SW	49
Galway	91
Kerry	69
Kildare	67
Kilkenny	37
Laois	33
Leitrim	15
Limerick	78
Longford	22
Louth	50
Mayo	37
Meath	74
Monaghan	34
Offaly	31
Roscommon	27
Sligo	35
Tipperary	94
Waterford	36
Westmeath	35
Wexford	65
Wicklow	43
Associate	5
Total	1,579



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 three times in 2017 to allow members to fully engage in educational issues of importance. This means that when NPC speaks on behalf of parents it can do so knowing that the issues have been considered and debated by the Assembly on behalf of NPC members.

At the first meeting of the year the Assembly members were consulted on the topic of Bullying by a PhD student in Educational Psychology looking at the research area 'A practical, theoretical and evidence-oriented anti-bullying

programme for Irish primary schools'. The Assembly also looked at the 'Role of denominational religion in the school admissions process and possible approaches for making changes' as NPC was asked to make a submission on this issue by the Minister for Education and Skills.

The next meeting was addressed by Mr. Tom Deegan, Principal Officer in the Department of Education and Skills, focussing on the Student and Parent Charter.

At the final meeting the Assembly met to provide nominations to the NPC Board and were consulted on the future of NPC as part of the development of the new Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

A photograph of three children playing in a grassy field under a blue sky with clouds. A boy in a yellow shirt and blue plaid shirt is running towards the right. A girl in a red and white striped shirt is running towards the left. Another child in a blue and white checkered shirt is in the background. The image is used as a background for the report.

Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2017

I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee, NPC Chairman Robert Grier, Damian Murray and Aisling Lawton, 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 2017 as shown in this Financial Report. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 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 2017.

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 30 September 2017 Mary O'Mahony and Sarah Lee Kiely retired as directors of the Council, and Miriam Brandt and Paul Geoghegan 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 on 14th July 2017. 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 2017.

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 deficit of €11,419 in the year (2016: surplus of €34,667).

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; "Parents as Partners" will shape the plans and direction for the organisation until 2022.

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

Relevant Audit Information

The directors believe that they have taken all steps necessary to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and have established that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information. 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

22 June 2018

Date

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

(Company Limited by Guarantee - without Share Capital)

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

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier

Director

Dermot O'Riordan

Director

22 June 2018

Date

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

1. REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Parents Council – Primary ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2017 set out on pages 10 to 22, which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and related notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in Note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2017 and of its net expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

We have nothing to report on going concern

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

for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Other information

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

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

Based solely on our work on the other information;

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

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

2. RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for 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. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on IAASA's website at [https://www.iaasa.ie/qetmedia/b238901-3-1-cf6-458b-9b81-a98202dc9c3a/Description of auditors responsibilities for audit. pdf](https://www.iaasa.ie/qetmedia/b238901-3-1-cf6-458b-9b81-a98202dc9c3a/Description%20of%20auditors%20responsibilities%20for%20audit.pdf)

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

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

Paul J. O'Brien
for and on behalf of
KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm
1 Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2

22 June 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	*Restricted funds 2017 €	**Unrestricted funds 2017 €	Total funds 2017 €	Total funds 2016 €
Income from				
Charitable activities				
- sponsoring bodies	232,112	331,000	563,112	572,230
Other trading activities				
- membership fees	-	101,845	101,845	102,425
- course fees	-	13,570	13,570	21,417
- publication sales	-	160	160	760
Investment income	-	259	259	272
Other income	-	9,062	9,062	-
Total incoming resources	232,112	455,896	688,008	697,104
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	(232,112)	(467,315)	(699,427)	(662,437)
Total resources expd	(232,112)	(467,315)	(699,427)	(662,437)
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	-	(11,419)	(11,419)	34,667
Total funds brought forward	-	375,430	375,430	340,763
Total funds carried forward	-	364,011	364,011	375,430

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

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

Explanation of some terms in the Financial Report

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

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

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2017

	31 December 2017 €	31 December 2016 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	16,361	15,259
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	468,717	453,591
Debtors and prepayments	43,319	11,734
	512,036	465,325
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(156,292)	(94,827)
Net current assets	355,744	370,498
Total assets less current liabilities	372,105	385,757
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(8,094)	(10,327)
Net assets	364,011	375,430
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds	364,011	375,430
Accumulated surplus	364,011	375,430

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier
Director

Dermot O’Riordan
Director

22 June 2018
Date

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2017

Robert Grier

Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €1,191.05

Sheila Donohoe

Vice Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 4/6

Expenses €775.75

Pirooz Daneshmandi

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €0

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €0

Aisling Lawton

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €0

Damian Murray

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €0

Dermot O'Riordan

Board meeting attendance 6/6

Expenses €178.28

Catherine White Byrne

Board meeting attendance 5/6

Expenses €1,257.42

Sarah Lee Kiely to 30.9.2017

Board meeting attendance 0/5

Expenses €0

Mary O'Mahony to 30.9.2017

Board meeting attendance 5/5

Expenses €1,446.81

Miriam Brandt elected 30.9.2017

Board meeting attendance 1/1

Expenses €852.83

Paul Geoghegan elected 30.9.2017

Board meeting attendance 1/1

Expenses €0

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

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2017

Audit Committee

- Dermot O'Riordan (Chairperson) 3/3
- Robert Grier 3/3
- Aisling Lawton 3/3
- Damian Murray 3/3

Communications & Media

Strategy Committee

- Mary O'Mahony (Chairperson) 2/2
- Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan 1/2
- Robert Grier 2/2
- Sarah Lee Kiely 1/2

Governance Committee

- Catherine White Byrne (Chairperson) 3/3
- Robert Grier 3/3
- Pirooz Daneshmandi 2/3
- Sheila Donohoe 3/3

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS 2017

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 Catherine Corr	Laois Margaret Greene	Wexford Martina Berry Mitch Kenny
Cork East Hilary Lawrence Margaret O'Neill	Limerick Margaret O'Keeffe	Integrated Education Group Sinéad McGee
Dublin North Tricia Lynch	Louth Emma Quigley Anne Mullen	Special Education Group Paul Geoghegan
Dublin NW Edel O'Reilly Catherine Rea	Offaly Sandra Gibson Michelle Grimes	
Dublin SW Alpana Delaney Karen Coghlan	Sligo Seonag MacPherson Miriam Brandt	
Kildare Ciarán O'Neill Jennifer Murphy	Tipperary Elizabeth Adams McPherson PJ Ryan	

NPC STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Liz O'Sullivan	Services Manager
Clare Downey	Early Years' Services Manager
Richard Quinn	Financial Administrator
Carmel O'Shea	Helpline Officer
Nnenna 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

2017

Our Year in Review



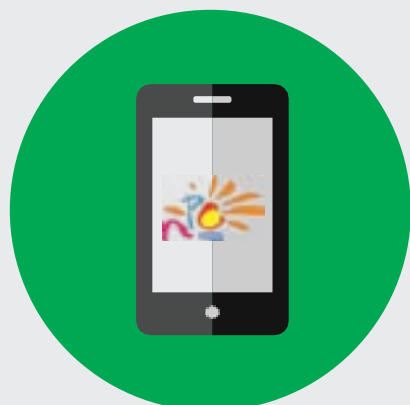
Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

Helpline

1,852

calls & emails to NPC Helpline

01 8874477



Training

7,510

PEOPLE ATTENDED
NPC TRAINING
EVENTS



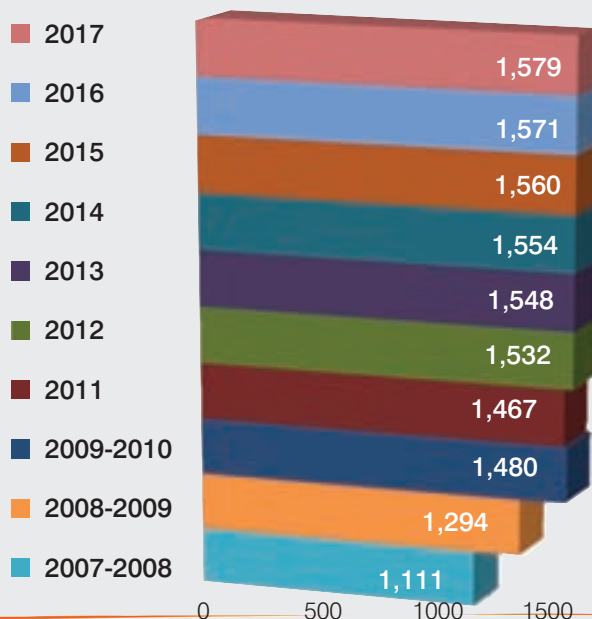
473

IN
SESSIONS AROUND
THE COUNTRY

Membership

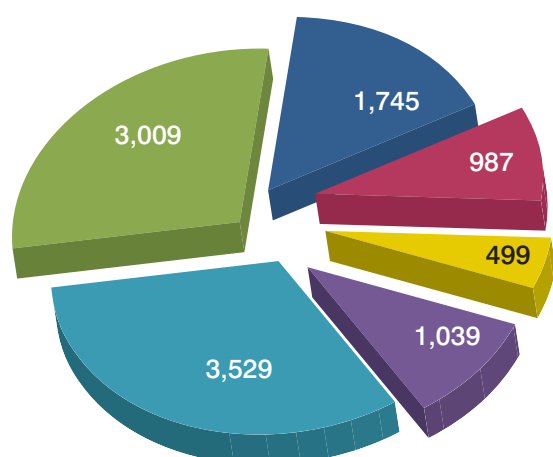
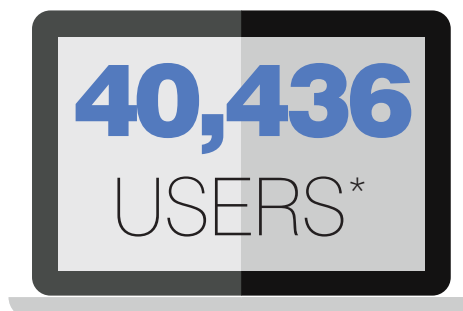


NPC Membership from 2007–2017



Communications

* Users that have accessed information on
www.npc.ie



NPC Surveys 2017

- Online Safety for children and young adults
- NPC's Strategic Future – public consultation
- NPC's Strategic Future – members consultation
- Your parents' and you in primary school
- Role of demoninational religion in school administrations
- Weight of schoolbags

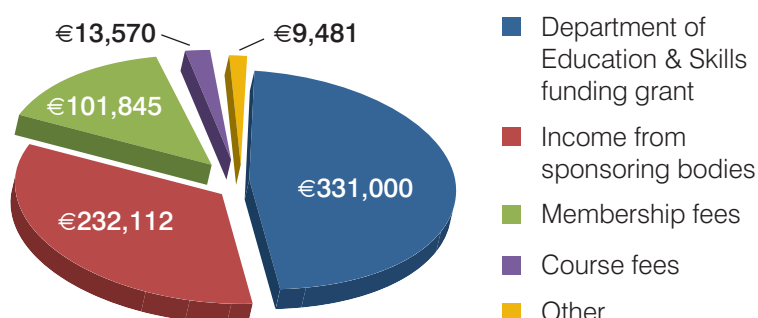


10,808

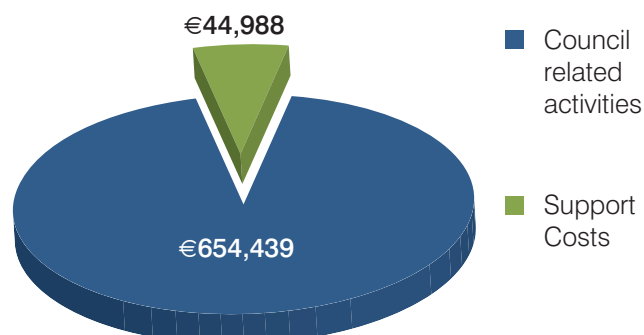
Responses were
received to
NPC Surveys

Finances

INCOME



EXPENDITURE







If you would like to contact us...

National Parents Council Primary

12 Marlborough Court

Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 887 4034

Email: info@npc.ie

Helpline:

Tel: +353 1 887 4477

Email: helpline@npc.ie

Website: www.npc.ie