

National Parents Council Primary (NPC)

Fred O'Connell Award



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

Introduction

The Fred O'Connell Award recognises innovative partnership work between schools and parents which supports children to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Fred O'Connell was involved with NPC in the early years of the organisation. Fred was the first paid employee of NPC. He also served as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of NPC. He believed strongly that parents have a vital role to play in their child's education. This award is in honour of Fred.

The Award

The winner will receive a plaque, engraved with the name of their Parents' Association and the year it was won. They will also receive a free year's membership to NPC. In addition NPC will have a larger plaque that will be presented to the winner but will be kept in the NPC office. This plaque will be engraved with the winner's name year on year to serve as a record of all the winners of the Fred O'Connell Award.

Two runners up will also be presented with plaques.

All entrants, who have been judged to qualify under the criteria as set out for submitting a project, will receive a certificate of achievement.

Criteria for submitting the application

- ◆ The Parents' Association submitting the application must be a current member of National Parents Council Primary.
- ◆ The submitted project must be an original project that has been developed by the group submitting it.
- ◆ The project must fall into the category of at least one of Dr. Joyce Epstein's six themes of parental involvement (see page 2).
- ◆ The project must have the potential to be replicated in other schools.

Deadline for submissions

Closing date for entry is 2nd May 2017 by close of business (5pm). No applications will be accepted after this time or date.

Entries should be marked **Private and Confidential**, and addressed to:

Aine Lynch, CEO, National Parents Council Primary, 12, Marlborough Court, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

Dr. Joyce Epstein's six themes of parental involvement, the keys to successful school, family and community partnerships

1. Parenting

Assist families in understanding child and adolescent development and in setting home conditions that support children as students at each grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.

2. Communicating

Communicate with families about school programmes and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.

3. Volunteering

Improve recruitment, training and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at the school and in other locations to support students and school programmes.

4. Learning at home

Involve families with their children in learning at home, including homework, other curriculum-related activities, and individual course and program decisions.

5. Decision making

Include families as participants in school decisions, governance and advocacy through the PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, action teams and other parent organisations.

6. Collaborating with the community

Coordinate community resources and services for students, families and the school with businesses, agencies and other groups, and provide services to the community.

Brief description of project (approximately 600-1000 words)

How does the submitted project match the following criteria?

★ **Originality**

★ **In line with one or more of Epstein’s six types of parental involvement**

★ **Its potential to be replicated in other primary schools in Ireland**

Please include documentation and/or other media appropriate to illustrate the specific characteristics of the project.

Please ensure ***informed consent*** is obtained from all participants (including parental consent for under 18s) to share any recordings/images making it clear these may be shared online via the NPC website. If consent is refused, NPC must be notified. Where consent is obtained it should be recorded on a *consent form (sample attached)*, dated, signed and retained by the school.

Contact person from the Parents’ Association

Name:

Home address:

Contact daytime telephone number:

School name:

School address:

School Roll number:

Informed consent

Informed consent is a process whereby participants are informed and asked for their permission or agreement prior to taking photographs or recording images. Individuals should be informed of:

- (a) the purpose(s) the image will be used for, and
- (b) the people/bodies to whom it might be transferred.

The individual should be asked for their prior written consent. Where images may be used for a variety of purposes (e.g., documenting, promoting or celebrating through press coverage, websites, prospectuses etc.), consent for each purpose and/or in a variety of settings (e.g., reports, public media, or websites) should be obtained on an “opt-in” basis.

SAMPLE CONSENT FORM:

We would like to take photos/digital images/recordings of your child and use them for the following purposes. Do you give your consent as parent/guardian for us to do each of the following:

Tick box if “yes” you agree with these uses

- Use on our school website?
- Use in our school brochure and yearbook?
- Use in our yearly school report?
- Retain in our school archives?

We would also like to transfer photos/digital images/recordings of your child to the **National Parents Council Primary** for use in the NPC Fred O’Connell Award and to be shared on the NPC website www.npc.ie Do you give your consent for us to transfer these images to National Parents Council for these purposes?

Tick box if “yes” you permit this transfer

Yes, I give my consent

Signed: _____
Parent/Guardian or Student (where over 18 years)

As a ‘child’ is anyone under the age of 18 years, consent of a parent/guardian is required.

If consent is refused, then images should not be passed on to NPC or other third parties or put to any use not agreed. Informed consent includes being given the opportunity to withdraw consent which had been previously given, if desired. Their right to withdraw any consent previously given must be free of charge, and not result in the data subject suffering any detriment.