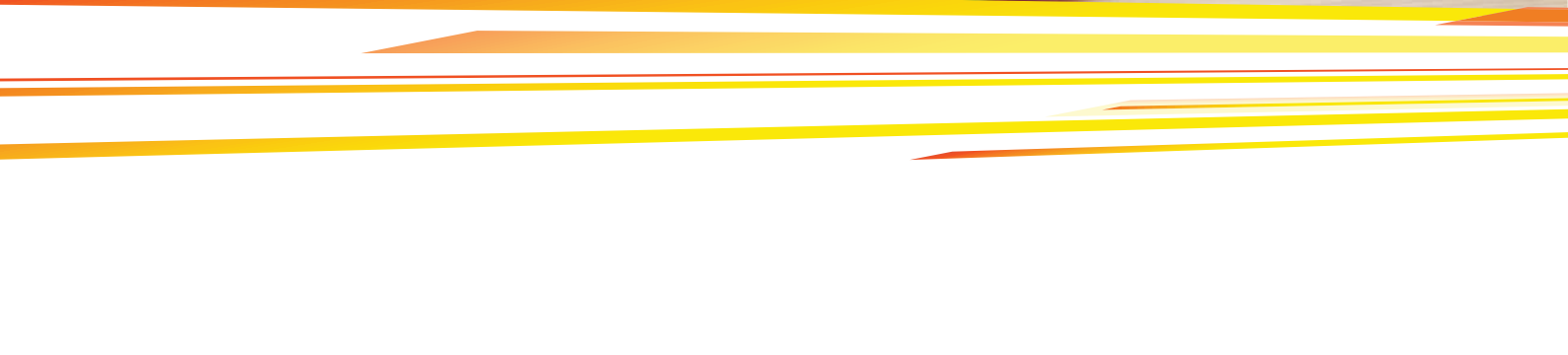




Supporting Parents
Supporting Children



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Registered Name

National Parents Council – Primary

Directors

Robert Grier (Chairperson)
Julie Dennehy O'Callaghan
Maurice Dockrell
Sheila Donohoe
Teresa Doyle
Aisling Lawton
Damian Murray
Mary O'Mahony
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

MacGeehin Toale
10 Prospect Road
Glasnevin
Dublin 9

Charity reference number

CHY 10547

Registered 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 2015 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 work to meet the ambitious targets that we set in our strategy; "Supporting Parents, Supporting Children". 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.

In addition to expanding and developing our services and structures in 2015, the organisation has also built on its programme of internal review and evaluation. NPC is committed to ensuring the highest quality in its operations and in 2015, in addition to its ongoing and continuous evaluation of its training programmes, NPC implemented an extensive review of its Helpline service and its policy development structure, the Assembly. Whilst both reviews showed a high level of satisfaction they also provided a clear framework for continued development and enhancement for the years to come. NPC is committed to building on this quality review and evaluation throughout 2016.

During 2015, NPC reformed its County Branch structure to ensure that parents are best supported around the country at a local level. NPC's County Branches rely on the commitment and hard work of volunteers. As part of the reform programme a new staff role has been developed within NPC of Volunteer Coordinator to ensure that its volunteers are supported and organised to fulfil their valuable role within the organisation.

NPC always takes its Corporate Governance responsibilities seriously. NPC's Board of Directors spent considerable efforts in its commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance during 2015. In this context the full

implementation of the Voluntary Governance Code for charitable and voluntary organisations was completed in 2015.

During 2015, the Board met on nine occasions. In 2015 the Board was comprised of twelve members who were elected from the NPC Assembly and were 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 NPC's Articles of Association. The Board had three committees which all operate 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, Communications and Media Strategy. 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 attends the Board and committee meetings in an attendance capacity.

Our 'Supporting Parents, Supporting Children' strategy has guided the organisation in its work throughout 2015 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 2016 NPC will continue to build on the work outlined in this report, to ensure parents are in the best position to support their children through the many facets of primary education.

Again I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immense 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



'Supporting Parents Supporting Children', NPC's Strategic plan, continued to guide the activities and direction of NPC's work throughout 2015. The year again was a very busy one with the Helpline answering nearly 1,700 calls and over 7,800 parents attending training sessions all around the country. The anti-bullying training continued as the most sought after training in 2015 with a third of those attending an NPC training event attending the anti-bullying session. In 2015 NPC developed a new training programme in partnership with St Patrick's Mental Health Services. This programme aims to support parents to support their children's mental health and well-being. In its first year this programme, launched in April 2015, was extremely popular with parents, with 65 sessions delivered in primary schools around the country with 1,720 parents in attendance. This programme and NPC's partnership with parents are at the core of NPC's strategic direction and its Vision to see an Ireland where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Pictured at the launch L-R: Theresa Duggan, Angela Walsh, Tom Maher, Paul Gilligan, Miriam O'Callaghan, Deirdre Sullivan, NPC Training & Development Officer and Áine Lynch, NPC CEO

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 annual conference with a presentation from Annie Kidder, Executive Director from People for Education in Ontario, Canada. The NPC conference also saw the awarding of the first NPC award for innovative practice in parent partnership to Gurraneasig National School who were awarded the Fred O'Connell award for their "What Parents Know that Kids would Love to Learn" project. After the successful inaugural NPC conference for parents of children with special education needs in 2014, NPC decided to make this an annual event and the second conference was held in November. This conference is already building in interest and NPC continues to be committed to supporting parents who are supporting their children with additional challenges in education.

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 2015 NPC received inputs from parents on the topic of literacy and numeracy learning in schools and from children on "What it is like to be a child in Ireland". The children's input was sought to contribute to a publication "Picture Your Rights" which was sent to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child as part of the shadow report to the Committee examining Ireland's record on children's rights as part of its periodic review.

During 2015, the education sector also saw some significant developments in which NPC played its part. NPC made a number of submissions on key educational issues on behalf of parents. These included representations on the delivery of supports for children with special education needs, parents concerns regarding the new Primary Online Database (POD) and revisions to the Constitution of school Boards of Management.

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 2015.

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 wellbeing of their children.

The **Special Educational Needs Group** represents parents of children with special educational needs. The group met three times during 2015. All of the meetings provided an opportunity for parents to share information and ideas pertaining to their children's educational experience. At the first meeting of the year the group reviewed the NPC 2015 conference for parents of children with special educational needs. The group also discussed the National Disability Association's document on "preventing school bullying of children with special educational needs". In subsequent meetings the group were extensively consulted on the development of a new section on the NPC website dedicated to parents of children with special educational needs. 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 once in 2015. The topics that they discussed were issues regarding inclusion and patronage. The group also discussed the membership of their group and how they could promote the work they were doing to other parents around the country.

The **Migrant Parent Group** represents parents of children from the migrant community. The group met once in 2015. The topics that they discussed were 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 **Traveller Parent Group** represents the interest of parents of children belonging to the Travelling community. The group held three meetings in 2015. The group met and discussed the issues affecting Traveller children in primary school.

The **Irish Medium Schools Group** represents parents of children who are educated through the medium of Irish. In 2015 the group met once and discussed language resource services for children in Gaelscoileanna and the transitioning of children from primary to post primary English speaking schools. They looked at how some Gaelscoileanna communicate with parents and conduct their meetings through Irish only and the challenges this presents for some parents.

The **Non religious group** represents parents of children of no religion. This group met for the first time in 2015 to look at the parameters of the group and how the group would work in the future.



Helpline

In 2015, the Helpline Officers dealt with a total of 1,691 calls and emails, dealing with issues such as the roles and rules of the Parents' Association, Board of Management, Code of Behaviour and NPC training courses, amongst various other issues.

Calls during 2015 appeared to reflect an increase in the interest and participation of more parents in the activities of Parents' Associations; as we received an increased number of calls from parents wanting to understand the rules/roles of the Parents' Association and from schools looking to set up a Parents' Association for the first time.

Complaints in relation to Bullying have remained high, and there still remains a concern among parents with regard to the Anti-Bullying Procedure and its implementation. In 2015, parents calling the helpline continued to express their dissatisfaction with the Complaints Procedure and its implementation.

The Helpline Officers have continued to disseminate information and articles of interest to parents through the NPC website and training workshops. Information compiled from calls and emails to the Helpline also informed various submissions to the Department of Education and Skills throughout the year.

Helpline statistics 2015

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2015
---------------------	---

BULLYING

Bullying involving a child	109
Bullying involving a teacher	10
Bullying involving a principal	5
Principal/Board of Management not implementing Anti-Bullying policy	4
Cyberbullying	3
Total	131

ISSUE

Supervision	17
Complaints Procedure	70
Homework	8
Code of Behaviour	52
Split Classes	11
Uniforms	6
Class Size	3
Enrolment	35
Curriculum	35
Time in school	10
Standardised Tests	2
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	2
Health and Safety	36
Separated Parents	1
Book Rental Schemes	3
First Holy Communion	1
School Transport	2
Voluntary Contribution	9
Child Abuse	2
Total	305

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls & emails for 2015
---------------------	---

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

General	80
Complaints	23
Total	103

PARENT ASSOCIATION

Set up	38
Disputes	28
Financial issues	90
NPC Membership	104
Rules/Roles	249
Information	269
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	16
Training	127
Insurance	34
Total	955

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs General	62
Assessment	12
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	3
Access to school	4
Professional resources	17
Total	98
Other	99

Total 1,691

Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2015. The Training and Development Programme is a national programme of training, development and support for parents.

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 school community.

Training Programmes

NPC provided eight training programmes for parents countrywide during 2015.

Anti Bullying Training was developed by National Parents Council Primary and National Parents Council Post Primary for parents of primary and post primary children. The session enabled parents to support their children regarding issues of bullying and also informed them about the new Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools. The training was delivered in both primary and post primary schools.

Parents' Association / Parental Involvement Training gave 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 in the school. It created an understanding of the role of a Parents' Association and facilitated groups in developing a positive and beneficial 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.

NPC now deliver three sessions of Parents' Association Training, an information session for schools who wish to set up a Parents' Association, a training session which informs the Parents' Association on positive parental involvement in the home and in the school and a session for the whole

school community to support parental engagement in the home and in the school as prescribed in the Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life Strategy.

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

Internet Safety Training continues to be a popular programme. The training gave parents the skills to engage with their children's online lives. The sessions focus on strategies for both improving communication between parents and children and negotiating boundaries to their children's internet use. 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.



Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

Parenting – Supporting your Child to Build Healthy Friendships and Relationships is offered in two separate programmes. Parents were able to attend an information session which informed them about the Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) curriculum or the 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. The programme 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 was provided for parents whose children were about to make, or had made, the transition from primary to secondary education. 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 was developed in partnership with the Inspectorate. This programme provides information and support for parents on the WSE process. WSE is a process of external evaluation of the work of a school, carried out by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills. The NPC WSE training programme enables parents to understand what a Whole School Evaluation is, the role of parents in their school’s WSE, how the WSE is carried out and how it is managed. This programme is available to parents, teachers, principals and Board members in individual schools countrywide.

TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2015

Type of Training	Number of Sessions Delivered	Number of Attendees
Parent Association Training	100	902
Board of Management	27	212
Transition from Primary to Post Primary	58	966
Internet Safety	25	309
Parenting Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships	Information Sessions 18	251
	Training Programme 32	847
Supporting Parents to support their children’s mental health and wellbeing	65	1,720
Whole School Evaluation	6	24
Anti Bullying Training	140	2,600
Overall Totals	471	7,831



Partnership Schools Ireland

Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) follows an evidence based programme that originates in the USA. The idea is primarily the work of Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director of the Centre on School, Family and Community Partnerships for John Hopkins University in Baltimore.

PSI supports schools to work in partnership with parents, pupils and community representatives in delivering 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 on shared planning and goal setting and shared work on delivering change. Partnership Schools Ireland is a joint initiative of the Irish Primary Principals' Network and National Parents Council Primary.

Partnership schools agree a programme of activities to support the work of the school. This is called an Action Team Partnership Programme (ATP). The Action Team is an opportunity for teachers, support staff, parents, pupils and community members to work together. The aim is to discuss the current work of the school and to find ways of supporting and enhancing this work from a variety of viewpoints.

One of the main advantages is accessing the voice of each group member which brings a new perspective to the school's areas of focus. The honest perspectives and

opinions of parents, children, school staff and members of the community are refreshing and informative, and bring richness to projects.

In 2015 there were eight schools operating as Partnership schools.

Looking to the future

In 2015 the Minister for Education, Jan O'Sullivan, T.D., announced funding for Partnership Schools Ireland to employ a Partnership Schools Coordinator to manage the programme. The Coordinator will also be responsible for developing and expanding the Action Team Partnership Programme to eighty eight (88) schools over three years.



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 2015 continued to communicate with parents and children via annual conferences, the website and surveys.



CONFERENCES

Education Conference 2015

The NPC Education Conference 2015 **'Building Brighter Futures – Partnership for success'** took place in June. Speakers included experts in the area of education and parental involvement from Canada and Ireland. The conference aimed at supporting parents to become involved in their children's education. Guest speakers included: Annie Kidder, Executive Director of People for Education, Toronto, Ontario, Canada with a presentation entitled 'Helping your child succeed at school – what matters most', the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan T.D., Paul Gilligan, Clinical Psychologist and CEO of St Patrick's Mental Health Services with his presentation 'Parenting and Education; Getting the balance right' and Pam Buchanan, a Learning Facilitator who gave parents ideas on 'Fun Learning Activities to Try at Home'.



L-R: Áine Lynch, NPC CEO; Keynote Speaker, Annie Kidder; Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan, T.D.; and Robert Grier, NPC Chairman.



L-R: Nan O'Connell with winners of the first NPC Fred O'Connell Award from Gurraneasig NS Parent Association – Dirk Bakker, Tim O'Kennedy & Bernadette Crowley with Robert Grier, NPC Chairman.

The very first **NPC Fred O'Connell Award** was awarded at the conference, in recognition of innovative partnership work between schools and parents which supports children to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Award is in honour of Fred O'Connell who served as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of NPC and was also NPC's first paid employee. Fred believed that parents have a vital role to play in their children's education. The Award was presented by Nan O'Connell, Fred's widow, who attended with her son and Fred's sister. The winner was the Parents' Association of Gurraneasig National School, Kilbrittain, Co. Cork. In second place was the Action Team Partnership of St. Louis Girl's National School, Monaghan. In joint third place were the Parents' Associations of Dunboyne Junior and Senior National Schools and Rathfarnham Educate Together National School. Thirteen Parents' Associations were also awarded certificates of achievements for their entries to the Award.



Special Education Conference 2015

In November 2015, NPC held its annual Special Education Conference ‘Making a Difference – Children, Parents and Schools Together in Special Education’. Those in attendance were given insights into the work of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) by Sé Goulding, Head of Operations at the NCSE in the morning. Noelle Connolly, Head of Local Services at the NCSE followed with a presentation on the ‘Role of the Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO)’. The afternoon of the conference aimed at providing more day to day supports for parents. Following the excellent response to her talks last year Dorothy Armstrong, an Occupational Therapist, once again gave parents some useful insights and many practical hints and tips to use with their children.

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.

The section ‘*On your behalf*’ highlights what NPC has been doing on behalf of parents during the year, what meetings were attended, where NPC made representation and submissions on behalf of parents.

During 2015 the website had 34,813 users, an increase of 1,344 from the previous year, 66.5% of whom were new to the site. 149,048 pages were viewed. The most frequently viewed pages included the home page, the training pages, particularly *Anti Bullying* training, the NPC noticeboard, information on Parents’ Associations and the role of same, Summer fun and the County Branch pages.

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 form the basis of submissions to the Department of Education and Skills and other relevant organisations.

In 2015 the Department of Education and Skills sought the views of key stakeholders on the review of the **National Strategy: Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life (2011–2020)** as it was midway through the period of the strategy’s operation. We therefore surveyed our members on the strategy which informed NPC’s submission to the Department.

In line with our Strategic Plan 2013–2017, NPC made a commitment to hearing children’s voices on issues relating to their experiences and hopes regarding primary education; in 2015 NPC surveyed children asking them to express their opinions on ‘**What it is like to be a child in Ireland**’. We had a huge response to this survey, with children sharing what they believed were the good and bad things about being a child in Ireland. The results of this survey were submitted to the Children’s Rights Alliance, who in conjunction with UNICEF, prepared a report entitled ‘**Picture your rights**’ which was sent to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child in May 2015; as the UN were scheduled to examine Ireland’s record on children’s rights in January 2016. NPC’s survey results featured significantly in this report.

In 2015, NPC continued to survey members via a **Membership Survey** to determine the level of satisfaction with the organisation. Members were asked, among other questions, which benefits of NPC membership they availed of, what training sessions they attended, what aspects of the website they found most useful and what information they would like to see on same in the future, whether they contacted the helpline and if so how they found the service and how likely it would be that they would renew their membership. The information compiled in the membership survey is used to inform and improve the delivery of NPC’s services.

Survey Title	Number of Responses
Review of Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life	250
What it is like to be a child in Ireland	2,091
Membership Survey	300

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 2015 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.

In line with the NPC Strategic Plan 2013–2017, NPC recruited a Volunteer Coordinator at the end of 2014. During 2015 the Volunteer Coordinator visited the County Branches, liaised with county volunteers and also recruited new volunteers. A series of representative evenings took place in the counties where parents from member and non members Parents' Associations and schools had the opportunity to find out from our Volunteer Coordinator how NPC works on behalf of parents and children.

The Volunteer Coordinator also consulted with County Branch members on possible new county structures, to try to find more flexible ways of working with members.

NPC County Branch members continued to reach out to Parents' Associations within their counties. Information evenings/training sessions were arranged by the counties for parents and Parents' Associations including on the following:

- Internet Safety
- Parent Association/Parental Involvement
- Anti Bullying
- Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and wellbeing
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary School
- Board of Management
- The role and function of NPC

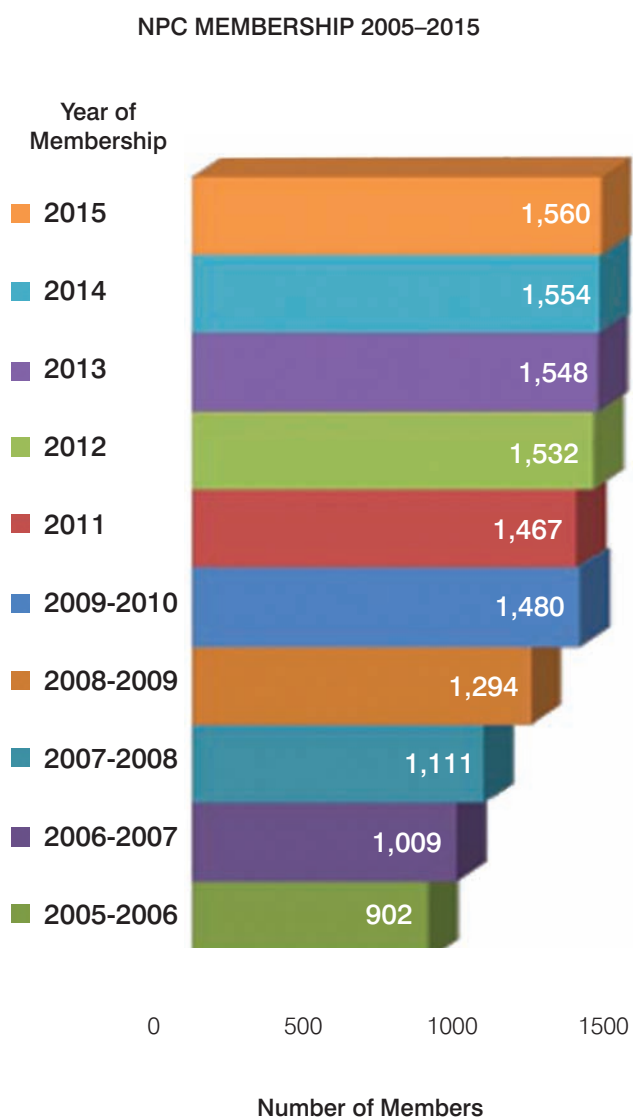
A number of NPC County Branch members visited local schools to provide information on NPC and on Parents' Associations.



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 2015.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2015

County	Number of Members
Carlow	26
Cavan	45
Clare	32
Cork East	86
Cork West	129
Donegal	55
Dublin North	61
Dublin NW	37
Dublin South	62
Dublin SW	43
Galway	83
Kerry	71
Kildare	66
Kilkenny	43
Laois	35
Leitrim	24
Limerick	79
Longford	19
Louth	46
Mayo	37
Meath	69
Monaghan	33
Offaly	29
Roscommon	30
Sligo	35
Tipperary	102
Waterford	36
Westmeath	30
Wexford	65
Wicklow	45
Associates	7
Total	1,560



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.

Further to a review of the NPC Assembly which took place in 2014, a focus group of Assembly members met in September 2015 to review the effectiveness of the operation of the Assembly. The key recommendations from the review and the focus group meeting were presented to the NPC Board and these recommendations were adopted.

The Assembly met three times in 2015 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, on the 21st of February, the Assembly revised the rules under which it operates to improve the running of the meetings. The Assembly members also commenced work on a new Parental Involvement policy for NPC.

The second meeting of the year took place on the 18th of April, the Assembly finalised the updating of the ***NPC Parental Involvement Policy***.

On the 18th of July the Assembly met to provide nominations to the NPC Board, the elections for which took place at the AGM in October 2015. The Assembly was addressed by the President of the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN), Mr. Brendan McCabe on the topic of leadership in primary schools to help update the ***NPC policy on Leadership in schools***.



Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2015

I was delighted to be elected as Chairperson of NPC's Audit Committee. I would like to thank the members of the committee, NPC Chairman Robert Grier, Maurice Dockrell and Damian Murray together with Áine Lynch and the staff of NPC for their work during the year.

I am happy to report that NPC finances remained healthy in 2015 and the following pages set out a summary of the figures. Full detailed accounts for the year ended December 31st 2015 have been issued to all NPC members and are also available on request.

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 2015.

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 3 September 2015, James Connors, Mary Bridget Lillis, Sean O'Riordan and Thomas Casey resigned as directors of the Council.

On 4 September 2015, Dermot O'Riordan was appointed as director of the Council.

On 3 October 2015, Deirdre O'Donovan, Breid Greene and Tara Sherlock retired as directors of the Council.

On 3 October 2015, Mary O'Mahony, Damian Murray and Catherine White Byrne 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 one Euro (€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.

Recruitment and appointment of the board

In accordance with the Articles of Association one third of the 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 nine times during 2015.

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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Council reported an operating surplus of €30,797 in the year (2014: surplus of €83,541).

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

The National Parents Council'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.

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

24 June 2016
Date

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

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* as applied in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They 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

24 June 2016
Date

NOTES: FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	*Restricted funds 2015	**Unrestricted funds 2015	Total funds 2015	Total funds 2014
	€	€	€	€
Incoming resources				
- Income from sponsoring bodies	261,905	326,000	587,905	553,284
- Membership fees	-	100,524	100,524	99,501
- Course fees	-	20,200	20,200	12,605
- Publication sales	-	450	450	740
- Investment income	-	1,196	1,196	2,390
- Other income	-	75	75	2,488
Total Incoming Resources	261,905	448,445	710,350	671,008
Resources expended				
Council related activities	(261,905)	(373,208)	(635,113)	(543,068)
Governance costs	-	(44,440)	(44,440)	(44,399)
Expenditure	(261,905)	(417,648)	(679,553)	(587,467)
Surplus for the year	-	30,797	30,797	83,541
Total funds brought forward	-	309,966	309,966	226,425
Total funds carried forward	-	340,763	340,763	309,966

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

24 June 2016
Date

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2015

	31 December 2015 €	31 December 2014 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	<u>9,273</u>	<u>7,589</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	395,156	339,972
Debtors and prepayments	21,318	16,513
	<u>416,474</u>	<u>356,485</u>
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(84,091)	(49,805)
Net current assets	<u>332,383</u>	<u>306,680</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>341,656</u>	<u>314,269</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(893)	(4,303)
Net assets	<u><u>340,763</u></u>	<u><u>309,966</u></u>
Funded by:		
**Unrestricted funds	340,763	309,966
Accumulated surplus	<u><u>340,763</u></u>	<u><u>309,966</u></u>

On behalf of the board

Robert Grier
Director

Dermot O’Riordan
Director

24 June 2016
Date

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2015

Robert Grier

Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 9/9

Expenses €1,367.70

Tommy Casey resigned 3.9.2015

Board meeting attendance 1/5

Expenses €0

James Connors resigned 3.9.2015

Board meeting attendance 2/5

Expenses €83.59

Mary Lillis resigned 3.9.2015

Board meeting attendance 1/5

Expenses €0

Sean O’Riordan resigned 3.9.2015

Board meeting attendance 2/5

Expenses €203.20

Maurice Dockrell

Board meeting attendance 7/9

Expenses €0

Terri Doyle

Board meeting attendance 8/9

Expenses €2,153.68

Aisling Lawton

Board meeting attendance 9/9

Expenses €0

Sheila Donohoe

Vice Chairperson since 6.11.2015

Board meeting attendance 7/9

Expenses €1,814.32

Julie Dennehy-O’Callaghan

Board meeting attendance 9/9

Expenses €0

Breid Greene to 3.10.2015

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €1,770.05

Tara Sherlock to 3.10.2015

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0

Deirdre O’Donovan

Vice Chairperson to 3/10/2015

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €635.49

Mary O’Mahony elected 3.10.2015

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €1,151.43

Catherine White Byrne elected 3.10.2015

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €605.95

Damian Murray elected 3.10.2015

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0

Dermot O’Riordan appointed 4.9.2015

Board meeting attendance 1/2

Expenses €59.46

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

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015

Audit Committee

- Tara Sherlock (Chairperson) 5/5
- Sean O’Riordan 0/5
- Robert Grier 5/5
- Aisling Lawton 5/5
- Dermot O’Riordan 4/5

Communications & Media

Strategy Committee

- Maurice Dockrell (Chairperson) 1/2
- Robert Grier 2/2
- Julie Dennehy O’Callaghan 1/2

Governance Committee

- Breid Greene (Chairperson) 7/7
- Terri Doyle 7/7
- Robert Grier 6/7
- Sheila Donoghue 6/7

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS DURING 2015

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. The representatives may change during the year as elections to the Assembly take place during the September to December term.

Cavan	Kildare	Sligo
Catherine White Byrne	Elizabeth Bracken	Miriam Brandt
Melissa Rubotham	Siobhán Tighe	Tipperary
Sheila Donohoe	Tom Grace	Elizabeth Adams McPherson
Cork East	Deirdre O'Donovan	Breid Greene
Mary O'Mahony	Laois	Wexford
Tom Evans	Margaret Greene	Donna Miskella
Donegal	Joanna Shore	Debbie Rossiter
Johnny Coyle	Limerick	Margaret Murphy
Fionnuala McGinty	Sarah Lee Kiely	Veronica Dennehy
Dublin North	Sheila Simms	Integrated Education Group
Rolf Mueller	Jennifer McGroarty	Sinead McGee
Dublin NW	Louth	Regina Grant
Piروز Daneshmandi	Wendy Geraghty	Irish Medium Schools Group
Debbie Solinas	Sarah Louise Cowley	Maitiú Ó Donnabháin
Mary M Galvin	Meath	Minority Religion Group
Dublin SW	Noreen Howley	Elizabeth Bracken
Dilly O'Brien	Offaly	Special Education Group
Gillian Malone	Martina Gorman	Paul Geoghegan
	Alena Dunne	Damian Murray
	Deirdre Craven	Traveller Parent Group
		Kathleen McDonnell

STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Deirdre Sullivan	Training & Development Officer
Carmel Grahame	Financial Administrator
Richard Quinn	Financial Administrator
Carmel O'Shea	Helpline Officer
Nnenna Ibezim	Helpline Officer
Karl O'Reilly	Volunteer Coordinator
Liam McPherson	Partnership Schools Coordinator
Michelle Davern	Administrative Officer
Sharon Hopkins	Administrator
Liz Sheehan	Administrator
David Perkins	Administrator
Jelena Pisareva	Office Cleaner





If you would like to contact us...

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