



Your Parents' Association during Covid-19

**Parents' Associations have never been
more important than right now!**

**Support and Communication is by far the
strongest and most important role for
the PA at this time**

There may be some additional challenges but the key principles of operating a PA remain the same as ever

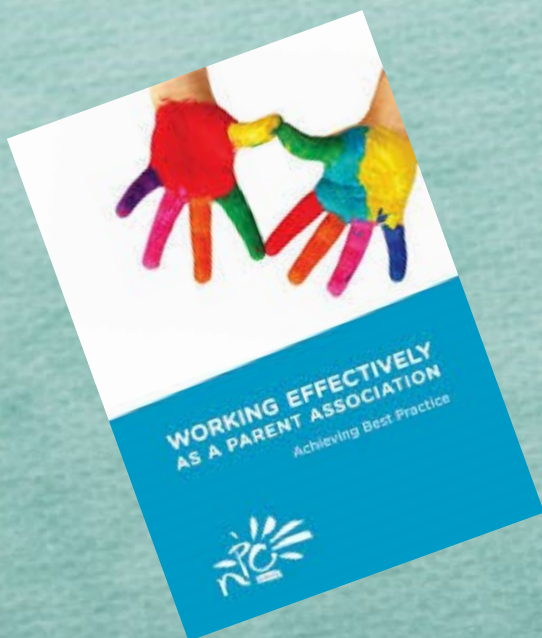
We just need to get a bit creative!

Where do we start?

Working in collaboration with your principal and BOM will deliver the best solutions.

Many schools will have different procedures or requirements in place to protect everyone's health and it may not look the same for every school.

Each school is different in terms of size and availability of space etc. so the solutions may vary from school to school. Whilst it is still very achievable to form and operate a Parents' Association it will be important to familiarise yourself with your school's requirements so that your PA can function within those requirements.



If you don't have a PA set up in your school yet, a step-by-step approach can be found in our 'Working Effectively as a Parent Association' book that you can download [here](#) or you can book introductory or committee PA training on our website npc.ie

The Practicalities of Operating a Parents' Association during Covid-19



Can the PA Committee still hold meetings?

- If health guidelines allow, work with your principal and BOM to find a workable solution
- If it's not possible to meet in person, online meetings may be an option or a mixture of both may be necessary

If your school has an assembly hall it may be possible to accommodate a number of parents when socially distanced. Your principal and BOM will be able to provide guidelines that are specific to your school.

For various reasons some parents may still not be able to attend in person, so perhaps you might be able to set up a laptop and a projector and invite these parents to join the meeting via a link to an online platform such as Zoom, Skype or Teams.

Before the meeting:

- Set an Agenda for the meeting
- The agenda should be sent out to all members of the committee one week in advance of the meeting.
- Include a link for members to access the meeting.



Online Platforms

- Create a free account for Zoom by going to zoom.us
- Free accounts can host up to 100 participants for up to 40 minutes

Can the Committee hold events in the school like a communion tea/coffee or a cake sale?



Events that may attract large groups may not be advised but creative solutions for smaller or online events may need to be explored

All events held in the school will, as always be organised in partnership with the principal and the BOM and adherence to school guidelines around Covid-19 will need to be observed.

Perhaps an online survey of parents might bring a few suggestions for other events that may not involve large groups.

Before Covid we might meet one another at the gate, at the time it may have felt just like a social gathering but it also provided support and connection for parents and that is now not possible in the same way.

Virtual coffee mornings might be a way of replicating that in some way and it might also provide an opportunity for parents to discuss how to keep our schools Covid free and why we need to keep adhering to the restrictions.

Suggestions for events that your PA could organise:

- Prepare a welcome pack for new families.
- Create a buddy system where a new family is buddied up with an established family.
- Create a virtual library of supports available to parents in the local area.
- Create a pack of online supports for parents.
- Online Quiz (using Kahoot.com)
- Clothing collection
- 6th Class Year book
- Online Cook Book
- Spring art or photography competition
- Uniform swap via Facebook

Online events can be a really good way of keeping connected with our community and is especially good for our mental health and that of our children



Our website npc.ie has plenty of resources that could be used as a way of getting parents together online, why not view one of our very popular Coleman Noctor Webinars as a group (someone could share their screen) and then parents could have a discussion about any useful tips or information they got from the session.

Organising a movie night for all the children of one particular class to watch the same movie and then meet online to talk about it afterwards.



Visit our website npc.ie for lots more resources and ideas

There are also a range of training programmes available to book on our website, these might be a good way of getting your parents to come together for an activity:

- Parents Association
- Transition from Primary to Post-Primary
- Supporting your child's mental health and well-being
- Anti-Bullying
- Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships
- Internet Safety

NPC Confidential Helpline

- NPC Helpline is open Monday—Friday from 10 am—4pm
- **Tel: 01-8874477**
- Email: helpline@npc.ie

If you have a query on any aspect of your child's primary or early years' education, contact the helpline.

Please note the Helpline is a confidential service.



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

Tel: 01 — 887 4034

Email: info@npc.ie