



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children





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Registered Name

National Parents Council – Primary

Directors

Massimiliano Boccalari

Miriam Brandt (resigned 25.09.21)

Avril Byrne

Laurence Keaveney (Chairperson)

Aisling Lawton

David Mullins (appointed 25.09.21)

Damian Murray (resigned 25.09.21)

(reappointed 03.11.21) (resigned 25.03.22)

Deirdre O’Donovan (appointed 25.03.22)

Derek O’Leary

Patrick Ryan

Sonya Ryan

Tara Sherlock

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

Banker

Bank of Ireland

Walkinstown, Dublin 12

Solicitor

Arthur Cox Solicitors

Earlsfort Centre

Earlsfort Terrace

Dublin 2

Charity Reference Number

CHY 10547

Registered Charity Number

20027032

Companies Registration Number

258148

2021

Our Year in Review



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

Helpline

4,614 calls, emails & webchats to NPC Helpline

01 8874477

helpline@npc.ie



Training

13,211

PEOPLE ATTENDED NPC TRAINING EVENTS

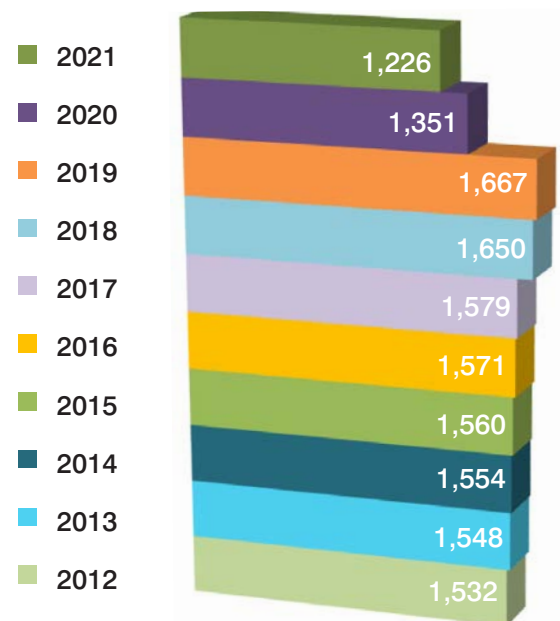
IN **614** SESSIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY



Membership



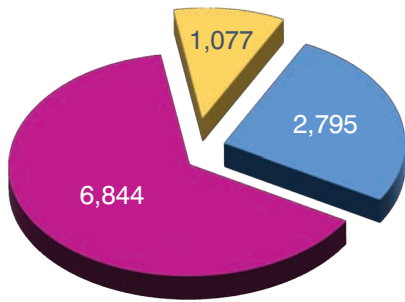
NPC MEMBERSHIP 2012-2021



Number of Members

Communications

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



Number of respondents to surveys

NPC Surveys 2021

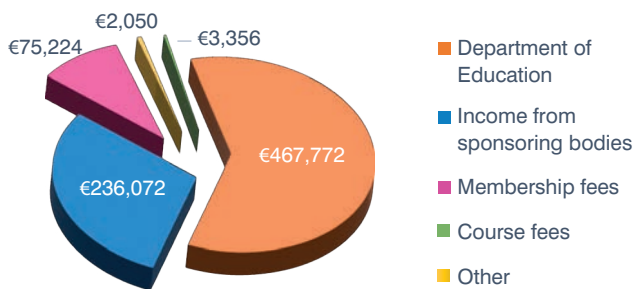
- Early learning and care services during Level 5 restrictions
- Digital Strategy Survey
- Parents' survey regarding children's remote learning



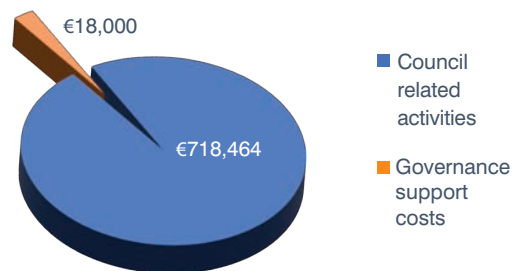
10,716

Responses were received to NPC Surveys

Income



Expenditure



Social Media 2021

f 5,673
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
REACH OF **139,129**

1,120
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
REACH OF **1,495**

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.

Chairperson's Report



It is my pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors to present the 2021 review of the National Parents Council Primary (NPC).

During 2021, the organisation continued to provide quality support and advocacy services to parents, continuing to adapt to the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting public health guidance. Our online delivery of services has now become a core component of our provision of resources for parents and Parents' Associations. Parents have consistently told us that they value our online services and wish to see them continue beyond the pandemic.

The Board will listen closely to parents feedback on matters such as this and other matters as it begins its preparation for its new strategic plan.

2021, like 2020 was another demanding year for our society, educational sector and our organisation. I again, would like to recognise and acknowledge the challenges faced by many families, many of whom have been in contact with NPC. Undoubtedly, the services and advocacy provided by our organisation continue to be needed more than ever. The board are cognisant of the role to oversee and steer the organisation. The organisation's board committees continued to work with a special focus on the areas of risk assessment, mitigation and finance scenario planning while also ensuring compliance with the charity regulators Code of Governance.

In preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements the Board seeks to clearly demonstrate the activities of the organisation, its impacts and benefits and how it organises and funds its operations in line with principles of good corporate governance and transparency.

It is fundamental to our organisation that the highest standards of Corporate Governance are maintained. Our commitment to delivering a quality and efficient service, now and into the future, has continued, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, NPC is independently governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of 10 voluntary members who receive no remuneration for their services. The Board is charged with the responsibility of administering NPC on a not-for-profit basis. The Board has two committees, Finance/Risk/Audit and Governance. During 2021, the Board met seven times and the two committees also met on several occasions, with all meetings taking place virtually in line with public health guidelines. Minutes were prepared for all meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the Board members for their invaluable contributions to NPC in 2021. Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Áine Lynch, our CEO and the staff of NPC whose commitment and dedication to NPC's Vision on our behalf ensures that NPC continues to play its vital part in improving the experience of children and parents in primary and early years education.

Larry Keaveney
Chairperson



Chief Executive Officer's Report

The pandemic was a continuing challenge to education during 2021 and continued to shape service delivery and advocacy in the National Parents Council during the year. While COVID-19 may have again dominated the year, it did not negatively impact our strategic goals or long-term vision for NPC. Significant progress continued to be made on the implementation of each of the objectives of our Strategy, *"Parents as Partners; Children, Schools and Communities"*. This strategic plan spans 2018 to 2022 and recognises the unique role we play in representing parents' voices in education and supporting them to support their children through these important years of their education. During 2021, NPC continued to build on the successes of 2020, consolidating and embedding our new models of service delivery which may well play a part in shaping NPC services into the future. Whilst we strive to return to in-person services we now see the benefit that live online delivery can bring to some parents. NPC continued to provide important services and to represent parents voices on important issues regarding school closures and safety measures, and children's mental health and wellbeing, to name only a few. Whilst also an exceptional challenge to NPC in delivering its services and advocacy, COVID-19 has opened up new and exciting opportunities, enabling us to develop a new model of engagement with parents, which continues to place parents and indeed their children at the centre of all NPC's work.

Again representing parents' voices was never more vital during 2021 amid school closures, remote learning, and continued restrictions. In 2021, we heard from over ten thousand (10,716) parents through our surveys on a wide variety of issues. The survey that gained the most responses from parents was on the issue of *"Regarding children's remote learning"* which received over six thousand (6,844) responses.

The service delivery in 2021 was again very busy, albeit with a very different approach to providing supports to parents. Due to the continued health and safety restrictions during 2021 leading to school closures and limited parent access in schools, NPC's services remained mainly online.

NPC continued to respond to parents' concerns through the helpline. The Helpline answered 4,614 calls and emails during the year which represents a significant increase on any previous years delivery. Our training supports provided online sessions to 13,211 parents attending 614 individual sessions again a significant increase on any other years' service delivery. The mental health and well-being session was again the most sought-after training in 2021 with 3,222 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 and early years children.

Throughout the pandemic, we have responded positively to the challenges presented, but also continued to strive to future-proof our facilities and our service delivery as we lay the groundwork for meeting the growing and changing needs of parents whose children are in early years and primary education. I believe that some of the transformations that have taken place in NPC over the last two years have truly transformed our organisation for the better and will stay with us into the future. This pays testament to the dedication and commitment of our Board and staff, and the continued confidence placed in us by parents.

Áine Lynch
Chief Executive



Early Years

The NPC Early Years' service was established and developed in order to support parents to support their children both at home and in pre-school and to represent their voice in the Early Years' sector.

Training

NPC delivered training to parents online in 2021 in compliance with public health measures..

NPC delivered training to support parents to support their children's transition between pre-school and primary school. The success of this transition can benefit children all the way through primary school providing better outcomes socially, emotionally and educationally.

NPC worked in partnership with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to create and deliver online training to parents living in reception centres on the topic of supporting transitions from pre-school to primary school.

NPC continued to work with Waterford Children & Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) to support parents with transition to primary school in the community.

NPC, in partnership with St. Patrick's Mental Health Services, has developed a programme to support parents to support their children's positive mental health in the early years.

Type of Training delivered	Number of sessions delivered	Total number of attendees
Transition from Pre-school to Primary School – online	98	2,289
Supporting parents to support their young children's mental health at home - online	47	873
Total	145	3,162

Helpline

In 2021, NPC continued to support parents with an early years' helpline service, which is available via telephone, email and webchat.

Early Years Helpline Issues

Training	379
ECCE Scheme	110
Services policies & procedures	19
AIM – Access and Inclusion model	11
Transition from pre-school to primary school	36
Pre-school deposits	4
Leavers/transfers from pre-school places	8
National Childcare Scheme (NCS)	25
Early Learning at home	1
Over age exemption	9
Other	18
Total	620

Information leaflets

NPC provides information leaflets to assist parents in finding a pre-school place and to support parents when their children are transitioning from pre-school to primary school.

The information leaflets provided are:

- Finding a pre-school place
- How do I choose the best pre-school for my child?
- Who's who in your child's primary school?
- Supporting your child's transition from pre-school to primary school
- Supporting playful learning at home.

Website

NPC continues to support parents with the early years section on the NPC website to provide information for parents specifically related to early years' education and care. The EY website received 14,683 page hits in 2021.

Representing Parents

NPC represents the voice of early years' parents to many stakeholders including the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the Department of Education.



Helpline

2021 was an extremely busy year for the NPC Helpline with a total of 4,614 contacts. This comprised of calls, emails and for the first time this year a Webchat helpline service that is accessed via the NPC website. The Webchat service is very much in its infancy and needs further development and promotion but has certainly been a positive and innovative development for the Helpline service we offer to Parents' Associations, individual parents and Principals.

During 2021 we were contacted by more than 2,000 parents in relation to the issue of the wearing of face masks in primary schools throughout the country. We also received a large number of contacts from

Parent Associations regarding the running of a Parent Association (374) and a further 111 in relation to financial issues pertaining to PAs. Parent Associations also contacted us about training for their PA.

2021 was a busy year for the NPC Early Years Helpline with a total of 620 calls and emails. Many of the calls and emails to NPC related to the early years Transition and Mental Health training for parents. Typically, parents were seeking more information about training content and how to access it. There were also a significant number of emails which related to the ECCE scheme.

Helpline statistics 2021

NPC Helpline Issues

Total number of calls, emails & webchats for 2021

BULLYING

Bullying involving a child	58
Bullying involving a teacher	11
Bullying involving a principal	2
Principal/BOM not implementing Anti-bullying policy	1
Total	72

ISSUE

Supervision	4
Complaints Procedure	28
Homework	6
Code of Behaviour	20
Split Classes	16
Uniforms	2
Class Size	1
Enrolment	25
Curriculum	30
Time in School	43
Standardised tests	2
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	2
Health and Safety	2,260
Parenting Issues	17
Retention	1
Book Rental Schemes	4
First Holy Communion	1
School Transport	4
School Closures	493
Voluntary Contribution	1
Post Primary	40
Child Abuse	2
Total	3,002

NPC Helpline Issues

Total number of calls, emails & webchats for 2021

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

General	7
Complaints	4
Total	11

PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

Set up	47
Disputes	13
Financial Issues	111
NPC Membership	42
Rules/Roles	228
Information	146
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	13
Training	86
Insurance	18
GDPR	3
Garda Vetting	5
Total	712

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs Enquiry	58
Assessment	46
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	7
Access to School	31
Professional Resources	10
Total	152

EARLY YEARS

Total	620
Journalist	6
Other	39
Total	4,614

Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2021.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Training and Development Programme supports parents to work in positive partnership with the school, and 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 2021

The challenges of the restrictions due to COVID-19 continued throughout 2021 but preparations for online delivery made the year before enabled an efficient delivery of the training programmes in 2021.

Anti-Bullying Training

This programme enabled parents to support their children regarding issues of bullying and also informed them about the Anti-Bullying procedures in primary schools. 2021 saw a notable increase in calls to the helpline seeking support around bullying, particularly when schools returned in the spring after the extended Christmas break. ***This training was funded by the Department of Education under the Anti-Bullying Action Plan.***

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 aimed to support and facilitate parents in developing a positive partnership in the school as a community.

Prior to the restrictions of the pandemic, the demand for Parents' Association training would have far exceeded NPC's capacity to deliver the training, but due to school closures and Parents' Associations being unsure about how they would work or even hold a meeting, this had been quite a challenging programme to promote in 2020. A newly developed Parents' Association Training through nationwide clinics was developed and successfully

piloted and delivered throughout 2021 and allowed parents to network with other parents and talk about the opportunities and challenges of operating a Parents' Association during school restrictions. ***This training was funded by the Department of Education.***

Internet Safety Training

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

This training was co-financed by the European Union, Connecting Europe Facility and Virgin Media.

Parenting – Supporting your Child to Build Healthy Friendships and Relationships

This was a three-part programme that covered topics such as the parent-child relationship and how children form friendships and relationships, communication skills for parents, and lastly, how parents can use those communication skills to have those 'sometimes difficult' conversations. ***This programme is funded by the HSE, Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme.***

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.

It has been well documented that children's mental health has been negatively impacted by the restrictions of the pandemic, and again this was evident by parents contacting the helpline seeking support around their children's mental health. ***This training was funded by St. Patrick's Mental Health Services.***

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 information on subject choices and an insight into the post-primary education system.

This training was funded by the Department of Education.

There was a significant increase in the delivery of this programme which may be due, in part at least, to the fact that many parents were telling us they felt their children in 6th class were not as prepared to progress on to second level as children in previous years. Parents felt that due to school closures their children had simply not spent enough time in 6th class to prepare them for the inevitable changes that post-primary school would bring.

This training was funded by the Department of Education.

OurKidsCode

OurKidsCode is a joint initiative between National Parents Council Primary and Trinity College Dublin.

It aims to increase the confidence of families with children of primary school age to learn about computing in a fun, interactive way.

Workshops were designed with the intention of being conducted in person at schools, however as a result of COVID-19, the programme was adjusted accordingly and held online. This proved extremely successful as demand for these workshops was huge.

All workshops consisted of two sessions, conducted over two days, each lasting around an hour in length. Each workshop consisted of three families with up to four children in a family. Workshop packs were sent out to participants which consisted of a Family Guide and the parts required to make and play the coding game Rock, Paper, Scissors. ***This training was funded by Science Foundation Ireland.***

TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2021

Type of Training	Number of sessions delivered online	Number of attendees
Parents' Association Training	94	1,209
Transition from Primary to Post-Primary	107	3,079
Internet Safety	136	2,782
Parenting – Supporting your child to build healthy friendships and relationships	46	814
Supporting parents to support their children's mental health and well-being	105	3,222
Anti Bullying	86	1,985
OurKidsCode	40	120 (families)
Total	614	13,211



Partnership Schools Ireland

The Partnership Schools Ireland (PSI) programme aims to ensure better outcomes for children by promoting partnerships between schools, families and the wider community. It is a joint initiative by the National Parents Council Primary and the Irish Primary Principals Network and is part-funded by the Department of Education.

The PSI programme is based on the work of Dr Joyce Epstein (Centre of School, Family & Community Partnerships, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore). Dr Epstein has been conducting research on partnerships between schools, families and communities for 40 years. This research has consistently shown that when strong families, excellent schools and healthy communities overlap and work together they provide the best possible opportunities for children to thrive. Working in this way improves academic, social and behavioural outcomes for children, as well as boosts confidence for teachers and families alike.

The work of a “Partnership School” is driven by an Action Team for Partnerships (ATP). Each school forms an ATP of approximately 8–16 people. The ATP consists of the principal, other school staff, students, parents, and members of the wider community, and should be representative of the school community.

Each year, the ATP leads the work on four goals.

These are:

- Two academic goals
- One behavioural goal
- One “climate of partnership” goal

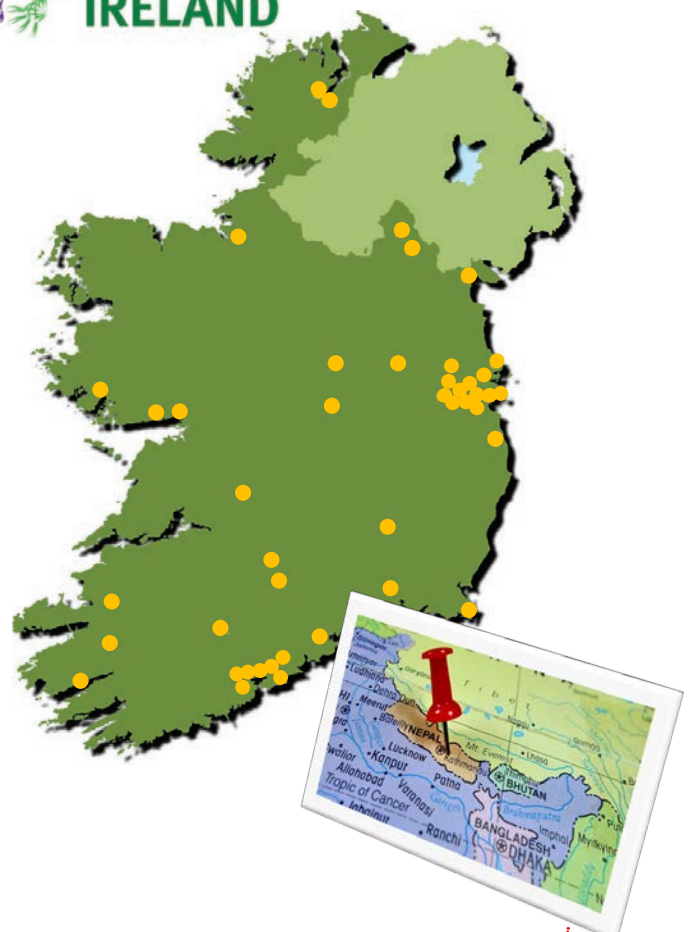
With an ever-evolving public health landscape, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted schools’ ability to engage with the programme in 2021. As public health guidelines prevented any in-person training sessions, the Action Team for Partnerships training was converted into online training sessions. These sessions were available and offered to any Principals who expressed interest in the PSI programme.

The PSI Co-ordinator delivered an information session on PSI to Home School Community Liaisons during their summer in-service programme, as well as the HSCL cluster chair and secretary training days in September.

The Co-ordinator facilitated two virtual Regional Support Meetings for active PSI schools in March 2021. These meetings, usually facilitated face-to-face, provided Principals and ATP leads with an opportunity to network with other PSI schools, benefit from peer support, and brainstorm COVID-19-friendly ideas and activities for the summer term. The virtual Regional Support Meetings were attended by 22 people from 17 schools. Attendees

included a mix of school Principals, teachers, parents, and community members. Feedback from these meetings was extremely positive. Attendees found the meetings supportive, encouraging, helpful and positive.

The Partnership Schools Ireland Co-ordinator developed a webinar on “Evaluating the work of your ATP” and a “Your One Year Action Plan for Partnerships – A Goal Setting Webinar”. These were facilitated in June and October 2021. It was intended that these webinars would support active PSI schools to evaluate their partnership work, so that they could plan for the year ahead. Like the virtual Regional Support Meetings, the webinars were attended by a mix of school Principals, teachers, parents and community members who found them to be extremely positive, encouraging, reassuring and helpful.



Communicating with Parents & Children

In line with the NPC strategic objective to develop two-way communications and ensure the delivery of quality information, in 2021 NPC continued to communicate with parents and children via the website, social media, surveys and via training events.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, all primary schools in Ireland did not reopen after Christmas until March 2021, therefore, as in the previous year, NPC continued to engage with parents primarily online and by using social media and the NPC website.

Website & Social Media

The NPC website www.npc.ie aims to provide parents with information regarding NPC and information on primary and early years education. During 2021, the website had 80,603 users and continued to be the main communication hub with parents. NPC had 5,673 Facebook and 1,120 Instagram followers and also shared information with parents via these channels.

Surveys

NPC gives parents and children the opportunity to share their views with the organisation regarding primary and early years education issues by way of surveys promoted on the website, social media and circulated to members and NPC contacts.

From the 9th to the 11th of February 2021, NPC ran a survey entitled 'Parents' survey regarding children's remote learning'. There were 6,844 responses to this survey. This survey aimed to find out about the impact the school closures and resulting remote learning had on children and parents. Among other questions, parents were asked whether their children were receiving learning support while at home, the technology their children had access to, whether schools were providing online classes, how in class learning compared to remote learning, how happy children were being out of school etc. (see also Regional Assemblies).

In response to a request from the DCEDIY for a submission, NPC developed a survey in order to hear from parents about any impact the closure of early learning and care services, during Level 5 restrictions,

had on their children. The survey ran from the 15th to the 22nd of April 2021 and was circulated to the NPC early years and primary school parents' contacts database. There were 1,077 responses to the survey. Of those completing the survey, 60% of parents had children between the ages of 0-5 and the remaining 40% had school age children.

A report was developed from the findings of the survey, and included information such as the types of early learning care that parents availed of, whether their children had special educational needs and what percentage of those children were receiving Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) supports, what areas of support were missed during level 5 closures etc. This report was submitted to the DCEDIY.

In May 2021, NPC was invited by the Department of Education to make a submission on the Digital Strategy for Schools. To inform the NPC submission a survey was developed in order to hear parents' opinions and feedback on their and their children's experience of digital learning under the current strategy and their views on important issues in the development of a new Strategy. The survey was sent to NPC members and contacts. A link to the survey was also displayed on the Department of Education's website and on NPC social media platforms. The survey ran from the 10th of May to the 18th of June 2021. There were a total of 2,795 responses.

Survey Title	Number of Responses
Parent' survey regarding children's remote learning	6,844
The impact the closure of early learning and care services during level 5 restrictions	1,077
Digital Strategy for School	2,795
Total	10,716



Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award 2021

The Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award was awarded at the AGM on Saturday the 25th of September 2021. The winner of the Award was the Parents' Association of **Gaelscoil Dhroichead na Banndan, Bandon, Co. Cork** with their winning project 'Implementing a programme of activities to support the whole school community'. The Parents' Association moved their meetings online and communicated this way with the Principal on school policies and activities. They utilised new ways of working to help deliver activities to students. Events were devised by the collaboration of many parents with input by the Principal. These were designed and implemented in an environment that was new to all.

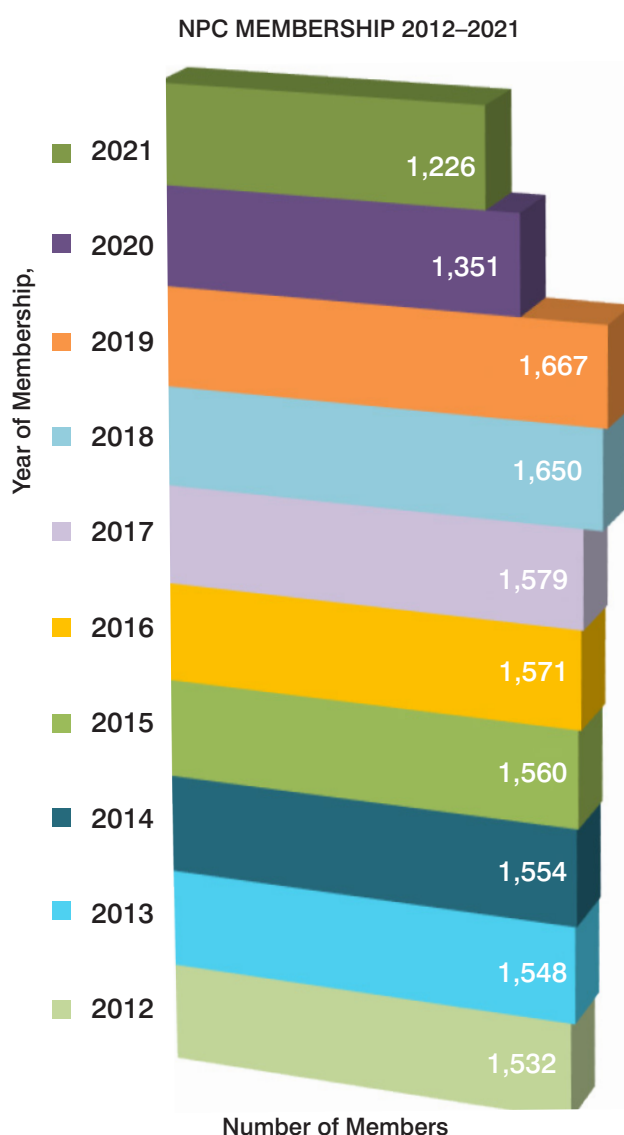
Three Parents' Associations were awarded 2nd place, these were **Hansfield Educate Together National School**, Dublin 15, with their project 'Around the World in 80,000 Kilometres'; **Kilbehenny National School**, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork with their project 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' and **Loreto Primary with St. Mary's Boys National School**, Rathfarnham with their project 'Internet and Smart Device Guidelines for Parents And Students'.

The Parents' Association of **Scoil Naomh ERC**, Glenderry, Co. Kerry, with their project 'A Virtual 5k Family Walk/Run', came in 3rd place.

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. COVID-19 restrictions and the resulting school closures impacted NPC membership in 2021 as it had in 2020; previous to this, NPC membership had increased steadily over preceding years.



The table below shows the membership for 2021.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2021

County	Number of Members
Carlow	22
Cavan	35
Clare	30
Cork	173
Donegal	48
Dublin	168
Galway	64
Kerry	47
Kildare	53
Kilkenny	35
Laois	22
Leitrim	15
Limerick	51
Longford	16
Louth	34
Mayo	34
Meath	65
Monaghan	26
Offaly	21
Roscommon	21
Sligo	27
Tipperary	75
Waterford	30
Westmeath	27
Wexford	54
Wicklow	33
Total	1,226



Regional Assemblies

The Regional Assemblies are a vibrant and exciting part of NPC where parents can network with other parents and have their voice heard about educational issues that are important to them.

In March 2021, NPC invited parents of primary school children to five Regional Assemblies which took place virtually. The regional events were open to all parents of primary school children, with parents being able to choose whichever date and time suited them to attend.

NPC, being cognisant of the difficult time children and parents went through during the school closures, wanted to hear from parents to find out about the impact on both children and parents.

Parents were consulted on two topics:

1. The impact they felt school closures over the past year had on their child/children.
2. The supports they believe their child/children will need to make up for this loss in the future.

The results of the NPC parents' survey regarding children's remote learning, circulated to NPC members and those on the NPC contacts database, from the 9th to the 11th of February 2021 and to which there were 6844 responses, were presented at the Assemblies.

Online focus groups were held at the Assemblies and a report was developed, detailing the results of the parents' survey and the focus group discussions, which was submitted to a number of stakeholders.



Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2021

I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee, NPC Chairperson, Larry Keaveney, Aisling Lawton, Derek O'Leary, PJ Ryan and Damian Murray 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 2021 as shown in this Financial Report. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 have been issued to NPC members and are also available on the Council's website.



Tara Sherlock
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 2021.

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 year are: Massimiliano Boccalari

Miriam Brandt (*resigned 25 September 2021*)

Avril Byrne

Laurence Keaveney (*Chairperson*)

Aisling Lawton

David Mullins (*appointed 25 September 2021*)

Damian Murray (*resigned 25 September 2021*)

(*reappointed 3 November 2021*) (*resigned 25 March 2022*)

Deirdre O'Donovan (*appointed 25 March 2022*)

Derek O'Leary

Patrick Ryan

Sonya Ryan

Tara Sherlock

Day to day running of the Council is managed by the Chief Executive Áine Lynch.

Details of the Council's banker, solicitor and auditor are given on Page 1.

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 11 September 2020. 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. All actions from the previous review have now been completed. The next review is due to take place during 2023.

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 Board nomination process has followed a process in accordance with the NPC revised Constitution which provided for the members of the NPC to nominate people for election to the Board. Following the nomination stage, an electronic voting process was conducted which facilitated all NPC members to elect the Board members to fill the vacancies that arose.

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) 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.

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 outbreak of COVID-19 which spread throughout the World in 2020 continued to impact in 2021. In Ireland, the impact of the pandemic has been characterised by the temporary closure of many businesses and organisations in "non-essential" areas to ensure people's movements are restricted in order to slow down the spread of the virus. The National Parents Council Primary has been able to continue operating during the pandemic period but the offices have had periods of closure or partial closure when some or all staff have been working remotely from home. This has changed the way that NPC have offered supports to parents but not prevented service provision. However remote working has had an impact on a number of activities that have not been able to continue during the COVID period:

1. The most significant impact has been on face-to-face training. During the remote working period and school closure no face-to-face training has taken place, however towards the latter part of 2021 remote training was developed and implemented successfully and has temporarily replaced the face-to-face training during times of social restrictions.
2. Partnership schools – during school closure no new schools have been trained in the partnership schools programme.

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

On behalf of the Board


Laurence Keaveney
Director


Tara Sherlock
Director

26 July 2022

Achievements and Performance

The Council publishes an Annual Review outlining the achievements of the organisation under its Strategic Plan's Aims and Objectives.

Financial Review

The Council reported an operating surplus of €48,010 in the year (2020: deficit €50,636). This was due to the return of a full year training provision whilst also saving on some expenditures for example the annual conference (face-to-face) due to continued COVID-19 restrictions.

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 certain other income.

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 Sections 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.

Going concern

As set out in Note 1 of the financial statements, the Council has assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its operations at the date of approval of the financial statements. This assessment encompassed a detailed recent review of the future outlook of the company which demonstrates that the Company should have adequate resources to continue operating for at least the 12-month period from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Accordingly, the directors consider it appropriate that the Council prepares its financial statements on a going concern basis.

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 board is currently developing its new Strategic Plan which will begin in 2023.

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 auditor is aware of that information. Insofar as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditor is unaware.

Auditor

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, KPMG, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

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.

On behalf of the Board



Laurence Keaveney
Director



Tara Sherlock
Director

26 July 2022

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

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Parents Council – Primary (*Company Limited by Guarantee – Without Share Capital*) (“the company”) for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 10 to 22, which comprise the statement of financial activities, 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* issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

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 2021 and of its income and 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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed,

we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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. The financial statements and our auditor's report thereon do not comprise part of the other information. 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 undertaken during the course of the audit, we report that;

- 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.

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 including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; 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; 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://iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/docs/media/IAASA/Documents/audit-standards/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.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.

Richard Hobson
for and on behalf of
KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm
1 Stokes Place,
St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2

26 July 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	*Restricted funds 2021 €	**Unrestricted funds 2021 €	Total funds 2021 €	Total funds 2020 €
Income from				
Charitable activities				
- sponsoring bodies	372,844	331,000	703,844	556,669
Other trading activities				
- membership fees	-	75,224	75,224	77,513
- course fees	-	2,050	2,050	6,125
- publication sales	-	-	-	60
Investment income	-	116	116	60
Other income	-	3,240	3,240	329
Total incoming resources	372,844	411,630	784,474	640,756
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	(372,844)	(363,620)	(736,464)	(691,392)
Total resources expended	(372,844)	(363,620)	(736,464)	(691,392)
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	-	48,010	48,010	(50,636)
Total funds brought forward	-	301,329	301,329	351,965
Total funds carried forward	-	349,339	349,339	301,329

There are no other comprehensive income and losses for the current or preceding financial year.
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.

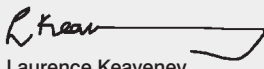
** **Unrestricted funds** are available for general use at the discretion of the Council in furtherance of its general objectives.


BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2021

	2021 €	2020 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	<u>12,973</u>	<u>8,648</u>
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	404,914	467,614
Debtors	57,305	32,985
	<u>462,219</u>	<u>500,599</u>
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(118,173)	(207,918)
Net current assets	<u>344,046</u>	<u>292,681</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>357,019</u>	<u>301,329</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(7,680)	-
Net assets	<u><u>349,339</u></u>	<u><u>301,329</u></u>
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds	349,339	301,329
Accumulated surplus	<u><u>349,339</u></u>	<u><u>301,329</u></u>

On behalf of the Board


 Laurence Keaveney
 Director


 Tara Sherlock
 Director

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2021

Laurence Keaveney

Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0.00

Miriam Brandt resigned 25.09.2021

Board meeting attendance 2/5

Expenses €0.00

Massimiliano Boccalari

Board meeting attendance 5/7

Expenses €0.00

Avril Byrne

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0.00

Aisling Lawton

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €0.00

David Mullins appointed 25.09.2021

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0.00

Damian Murray resigned 25.09.2021

reappointed 03.11.2021

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €0.00

Derek O'Leary

Board meeting attendance 4/7

Expenses €0.00

Patrick Ryan

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €0.00

Sonya Ryan

Board meeting attendance 5/7

Expenses €0.00

Tara Sherlock

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0.00

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

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2021

Audit Committee

- Tara Sherlock (Chair) 4/4
- Larry Keaveney 4/4
- Aisling Lawton 4/4
- PJ Ryan 4/4
- Derek O'Leary 3/4

Governance Committee

- Miriam Brandt (Chair) 0/1
- Larry Keaveney 1/1
- Sonya Ryan 1/1
- Avril Byrne 1/1
- Max Boccalari 0/1



NPC STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Catherine Cross	Services Manager
Clare Downey	Early Years Services Manager
Richard Quinn	Financial Administrator
Kate Connell	Voice and Participation Officer
Shashank Srinivas	Communications and Membership Officer
René O'Malley	OurKidsCode Coordinator
Carmel O'Shea	Helpline Officer
Michelle Scanlan	Helpline Officer
Alla Manylyak	Ukrainian Helpline Officer
Danielle Goodman	Partnership Schools Ireland Coordinator
Michelle Davern	Administrative Officer
Sharon Hopkins	Training Administrator
David Perkins	Administrator
Marion O'Brien	Administrator



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

If you would like to contact us...

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