



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children





Contents

	Page
2022 – Our Year in Review	2
Overview of National Parents Council Primary	4
Chairperson's Report	5
Chief Executive Officer's Report	6
Early Years	7
Helpline	8
Helpline Statistics 2022	9
Training and Development	10
Partnership Schools Ireland	12
Inclusion, Voice and Influence	13
Communicating with Parents and Children	14
Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award 2022	15
Membership	16
Financial Report	17
Directors' Report	19
Directors who served during 2022	28
Board Sub-Committee Members 2022	28
NPC Staff	29

Registered Name
National Parents Council – Primary

Directors
Massimiliano Boccalari
Avril Byrne
Cáit Delaney (appointed 24 Sept. 2022)
Laurence Keaveney (Chairperson)
Sue Kennedy Hughes (appointed 24 Sept. 2022)
Aisling Lawton (resigned 24 Sept. 2022)
David Mullins
Damian Murray (resigned 25 Mar. 2022)
Deirdre O'Donovan (appointed 25 Mar. 2022)
(resigned 24 Sept. 2022)
Derek O'Leary
Patrick Ryan (resigned 24 Sept. 2022)
Sonya Ryan
Tara Sherlock
Richa Tyagi (appointed 24 Sept. 2022)

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

2022

Our Year in Review



Supporting Parents
Supporting Children

Helpline

2,030 calls, emails & webchats to NPC Helpline

01 8874477

helpline@npc.ie



Training

13,377

PEOPLE ATTENDED NPC TRAINING EVENTS

122

IN PERSON SESSIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY

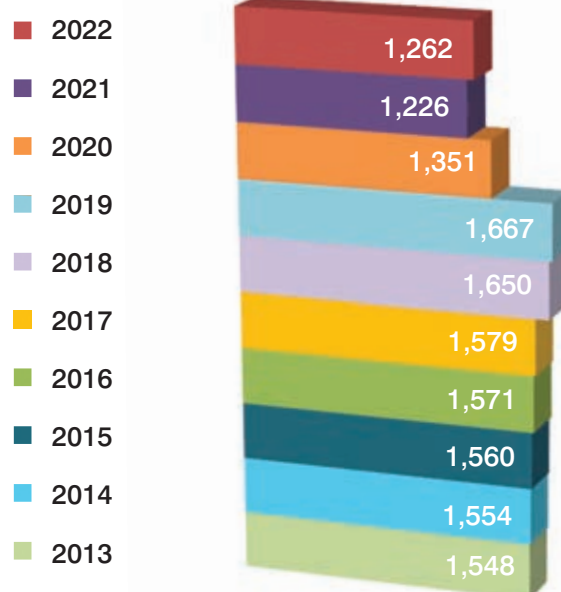
658

ONLINE SESSIONS

Membership



NPC MEMBERSHIP 2013–2022



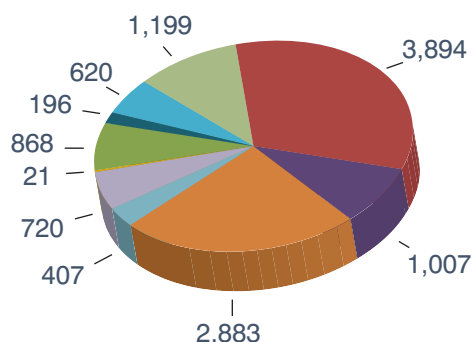
Number of Members

Communications

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

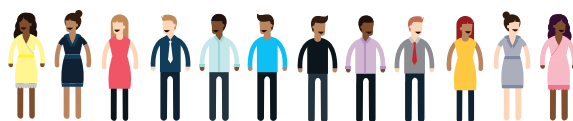


NPC Surveys 2022



- STEM Education Implementation Plan
- Your child and the internet
- The redevelopment of the Primary Curriculum
- School meals programme
- Anti bullying survey for parents
- Anti bullying survey for children
- Maths curriculum survey for parents
- Maths curriculum survey for children
- TUSLA early years' inspectorate survey
- Summer programme for children with Special Educational Needs

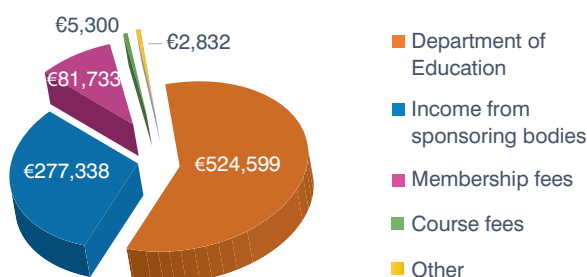
Number of respondents to surveys



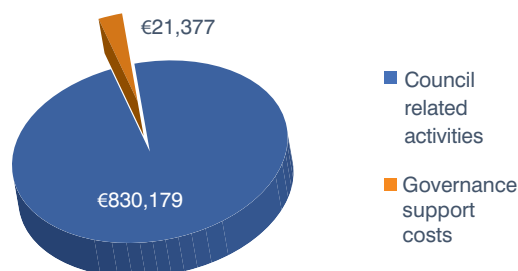
11,815

Responses were received to NPC Surveys

Income



Expenditure



Social Media 2022

f 5,900
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
REACH OF **111,920**

1,200
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
REACH OF **8,512**

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 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 2022 Annual Review of the National Parents Council Primary (NPC).

Considerable progress was made at every level in the organisation over the last twelve months and I am pleased to report that NPC has now delivered on its Strategic Objectives as set out in *'Parents as Partners: Children, Schools & Communities' Strategic Plan 2018-2022*. In 2022 the Board and the Executive commenced its consultation to map out the next five year development of the NPC, and although advanced in this process of strategic planning the Board decided to extend the current Strategic Plan for a further year following a request from the Department of Education to extend its remit and supports to parents of children in post primary schools.

Following careful consideration of the request, the Board decided it was in the best interests of students and their parents in post primary education to accept this extended remit initially on an interim basis. Due to these developments late in 2022, it was decided that a further period of reflection and consultation was needed to ensure the new strategic planning was carried out effectively. As well as looking to the future in 2022, NPC continued in its commitment to providing quality services. NPC takes its Corporate Governance responsibilities seriously. The NPC Board of Directors spent considerable efforts in its commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance during 2022. In this context NPC conducted its annual audit in its compliance with the Charity Regulators Code of Governance. During 2022, the Board met on seven occasions to conduct its business. The Board also had two committees which all operated to terms of reference that were approved by the Board, and each committee's Chairperson was formally elected and reports to the Board. The Board committees are: Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and Governance Committee.

The Board delegates the day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive as well as having certain matters reserved for its decision. The Chief Executive is present at the Board and committee meetings in an attendance capacity. The achievements of the last twelve months have only been made possible by the work of dedicated staff and volunteers led by a strong management team and Board of Directors. Together, they ensure that we maintain the high quality of our services whilst always looking for innovative ways to support and represent parents. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution provided by the members of the Board who provided their own individual expertise in guiding the organisation through another year of growth and development.

On a personal note I would like to thank Board members past and present for your great support over the last six years as I step down from the role of Chairperson of the NPC.

The board has always functioned in a professional, respectful and collegiate manner which greatly facilitated governance and decision making. Also may I say a special thank you to Áine our CEO and the dedicated executive team at NPC. You are all wonderfully passionate about the work and advocacy of NPC and deliver great services to parents and students. The extended remit of the council to include post primary is a very positive development and should underpin an enhanced range of supports and services to post primary parents over the coming years.

I am delighted to now introduce my successor as Chairperson, William Earley, who I am confident will steer the NPC effectively during these years of great change and growth.

Larry Keaveney
Chairperson



Chief Executive Officer's Report

Thankfully, 2022 saw the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, with most of the public health restrictions removed, although it remained an ongoing challenge for some. In the main, our schools returned to somewhat normal for children and staff attending. Some challenges did remain for parents going back into schools, as schools attempted to reduce the risk of the spread of infections; parent teacher meetings and parents' association meetings did remain online for many schools for much of the year. During 2022, NPC continued to build on the successes of 2021, 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 continue to see the benefit that live online delivery can bring to some parents.

The service delivery in 2022 was again very busy. Due to the continued health and safety restrictions during 2022 leading to limited parent access in schools, NPC's services remained mainly online. NPC continued to respond to parents' concerns through the Helpline. The Helpline answered 2,030 calls and emails during the year. In 2022, NPC employed a Ukrainian helpline officer on a temporary basis to support parents arriving in Ireland to navigate the Irish education system. The vast majority of calls to this service were in relation to accessing a school place for their child.

Our training supports provided online sessions to 13,377 parents, with the mental health and well-being session again being the most sought-after training in 2022, with 3,936 parents attending across the early years and primary sector. 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.

Again representing parents' voices was central to the work of NPC in 2022, and we heard from over eleven thousand (11,815) parents through our surveys on a

wide variety of issues. The survey that gained the most responses from parents was on the issue Science, Technology and Maths Education (STEM), which received over three thousand (3,894) responses.

2022 saw the drawing to an end of our Strategy, "Parents as Partners; Children, Schools and Communities". This strategic plan spans the years 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. In 2022, the Board and staff began a consultation and discussion on what the next strategic development period would look like for NPC. Extensive work was carried out in developing the next Strategic Plan, however the Board decided to put the planning on hold following a communication from the Department of Education. The Department asked NPC to extend its remit to support and advocate for parents of children in post-primary education in addition to the early and primary years. As this development happened late in the year it was decided to postpone the strategic planning process until it was clearer what this development would mean for NPC.

Extending our services for post primary parents, offers NPC the opportunity to provide cohesive supports and advocacy for parents from the time their child enters the early years sector to the time their child leaves their post primary education. This will present NPC with challenges and I hope many opportunities. We look forward to building relationships and partnerships across all education sectors into the future and look forward to consulting on and developing a new strategy for NPC guiding it on this path. Taking on this new challenge with enthusiasm and commitment speaks to the dedication 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 delivers two early years training workshops for parents:

NPC has worked in partnership with St Patrick's Mental Health Services to develop a programme to support parents to support their young child's positive mental health and wellbeing at home. NPC also delivers Supporting your child's transition from pre-school to primary school. This programme has been developed to support parents to support their children when they make the transition from pre-school to primary school.

NPC delivered 124 training workshops to parents both online and in person to 2,541 parents in 2022.

Type of Training delivered	Sessions delivered online	Sessions delivered in-person	Number of attendees
Transition from Pre-school to Primary School	83		1,639
Supporting parents to support their young children's mental health at home	34	7	902
Total	117	7	2,541

Helpline

In 2022, NPC continued to support parents with an early years' helpline service, which is available via telephone, email and webchat.

Early Years Helpline Issues	Total
Training	123
National Childcare Scheme (NCS)	28
Early Learning at home	2
Overage exemption	14
Early Learning - ECCE scheme	109
Early Learning - Service policies	23
Early Learning - AIM	6
Transitions	13
Deposits	1
Leavers/Transfers	4
Early Years - Other	15
Total	338

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.
- Supporting your child's positive mental health

Website

NPC continues to support parents with the early years' section on the NPC website providing information for parents specifically related to early years' education and care. The early years' website received 13,193 website views in 2022.

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

2022 was another busy year for the NPC Helpline with a total of 2,030 contacts. This comprised of phone calls, emails and the Helpline webchat service that is accessed via the NPC website.

As always 2022 saw our Helpline Officers deal with a large number of queries relating to the effective operation of Parents' Associations, requests for training of Parents' Associations and financial issues in Parents' Associations. Rules and roles of a Parents' Association and Enrolment were the two areas that we were mostly contacted about.

This year we operated a specific Helpline for Ukrainian parents from April to December 2022. The vast majority of calls and emails to this element of the Helpline were related to accessing a school place for children who had arrived in Ireland from the Ukraine.

Helpline statistics 2022

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls, emails & webchats for 2022
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BULLYING

Bullying involving a child	43
Bullying involving a teacher	8
Bullying involving a principal	8
Cyber-Bullying	1
Total	60

ISSUE

Supervision	4
Complaints Procedure	30
Homework	5
Code of Behaviour	17
Split Classes	8
Uniforms	5
Class Size	1
Enrolment	165
Curriculum	24
Time in School	34
Standardised Tests	1
Whole School Evaluation (WSE)	1
Health and Safety	187
Parenting Issues	8
Retention	1
Book Rental Schemes	1
First Holy Communion	2
School Transport	19
School Closures	26
Voluntary Contribution	3
Post Primary	66
Child Abuse	2
Total	610

NPC Helpline Issues	Total number of calls, emails & webchats for 2022
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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

General	19
Complaints	3
Total	22

PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

Set up	106
Disputes	26
Financial Issues	128
NPC Membership	98
Rules/Roles	226
Information	46
Difficulty with Principal/Board of Management	15
Training	82
Insurance	25
GDPR	4
Garda Vetting	23
Total	779

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs Enquiry	39
Assessment	40
Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)	2
Access to School	36
Professional Resources	15
Total	132

EARLY YEARS

Total	338
Other	89
Total	2,030

Training and Development

The NPC Training and Development Programme continued to deliver training and support to parents throughout 2022.

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, encouraging a positive role for parents as part of the whole school community.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED IN 2022

Demand for 'in-person' training is steadily but slowly returning, however, demand for online training was still strong and parents told us that it was very often more convenient to attend training online.

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. Demand for this programme in 2022 was significantly higher than in pre-pandemic years. 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.

Bookings for this training in 2022 were back to pre-pandemic levels, indicating that Parents' Associations who may have been in many cases less active during the school closures, were back re-establishing the very important work they do in partnership with schools. 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. There was a huge demand for these sessions this year, which far exceeded the demand in pre-pandemic years. 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 promoting 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 many families are still struggling with this. This training was funded by *St. Patrick's Mental Health Services*.

TRAINING PROGRAMME STATISTICS FOR 2022

Training Programme	Universal sessions delivered online	School specific delivered online	Sessions delivered in-person	Number of attendees
Parents' Association	15	58	77	1,526
Mental Health and Well-being	140	10	14	3,034
Transition from Primary to Post-Primary	39	8	7	1,304
Internet Safety	88	4	8	1,537
Anti Bullying	61	4	5	1,450
RSE Part 1	47	1	2	848
RSE Part 2	36	0	1	646
RSE Part 3	30	0	1	491
Training delivered to 10,836 parents				



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

2022 saw the slow return to in-person training sessions, and 6 new schools were trained in the Partnership Schools Ireland model, and quite a number of schools have expressed interest in the programme for 2023.

The Partnership Schools Ireland Co-ordinator provided support to active PSI schools through webinars and Regional Support Meetings, as well as ongoing phone and email support. In October, 16 principals, teachers, parents and community members attended a virtual Goal Setting Webinar which was designed to support Action team for Partnerships members to set goals for the year ahead. In November, the PSI Co-ordinator held the first in-person Regional Support Meetings since 2019. These were held in Cork and Meath and gave a total of 12 attendees an opportunity to reconnect, brainstorm and engage in peer learning.

The PSI Co-ordinator continued to promote the PSI programme across 2022. The PSI website and all promotional materials were updated to support these efforts. Early in the year, a PSI information session was delivered to two groups of newly appointed Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinators (HSCL). Sessions on partnerships with parents and the PSI programme were delivered to ten groups of newly appointed Principals. Further sessions were delivered virtually to a total of ninety five principals / deputy principals, designed to provide an overview of the PSI programme.



Inclusion, Voice & Influence

The Inclusion, Voice and Influence Officer role, a new position within NPC, was developed in 2022 to enable NPC to engage with parents and children with a special focus on hearing the voice of seldom heard parents and children.

The Inclusion, Voice and Influence Officer works closely and collaboratively with relevant local, regional and national groups, forming relationships with stakeholders and partners, that will assist NPC to support and represent this group of parents. Engaging parents and children in consultation and advocacy events is very important if their voice is to be represented accurately. On the 3rd of March 2022 NPC, in collaboration with the Teaching Council and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), held a BEACONS or 'Bringing Education Alive for Communities on a National Scale' online consultation event. This event provided the opportunity for consultation with parents, children and teachers on the 'Future of the Primary School Curriculum'.

The Department of Education are redeveloping the Summer Programme and while there is an existing Summer School Programme in Ireland, that has in recent years seen some improvements, parents have continuously told us about the challenges their children have in accessing it. NPC consulted with parents about the type of Summer Programme they would like for their children in the future. To start this conversation,

NPC hosted a parent consultation event named 'Make a Difference: Re-imagining the Summer Programme in Ireland', on the 22nd of October 2022 to hear what the parents had to say. On the day of the event, Michael Bondin and Theresa Ellul from the Government of Malta discussed their model for a Summer School Programme (Skolasajf). Frank Hanlon from the Department of Education presented on the Department's experience and plans for the Summer Programme in Ireland. John Kearney from the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) presented reflections based on the needs of children presenting to the NCSE and Frieda McElhinney presented on behalf of the advocacy group "Open Special Schools and Classes".

In advance of the in-person consultation event, NPC also surveyed parents on the Summer Programme, 1,199 parents took part in the survey and results of the survey together with the report from the consultation formed the basis of NPC's submission to the Department.

To read the submission please click this link
<https://www.npc.ie/news-events/npc-submission-on-the-review-of-the-summer-programme-in-ireland>

Communicating with Parents & Children

In line with the NPC strategic objective to develop two-way communications and ensure the delivery of quality information, in 2022 NPC continued to communicate with parents and children via the website, social media, surveys and via training events.

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, the website is the single most visible front of the organisation. The website is NPC's main communication hub, where traffic is redirected through social media and surveys. During 2022, the website had 73,871 users.

Since 2022, there has been use of LinkedIn, Instagram stories, Instagram and Facebook through which traffic was redirected to the NPC website. Facebook has been a long standing platform for NPC with over 5,900 followers and sees engagement for posts including training information, free events for parents and news related to education. There are over 1,200 NPC Instagram followers.

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.

NPC developed a survey in order to hear parents' views on the '**STEM Education Implementation Plan**', an action plan by the Department of Education for the promotion and teaching of STEM subjects across the whole education system. The survey ran from the 17th to the 24th of January 2022. There were 3,894 responses to this survey.

To mark **Safer Internet Day 2022**, NPC, in collaboration with Webwise (the Irish Internet Safety Awareness Centre) and Technological University (TU) Dublin, conducted a survey to explore parental attitudes to online risks and safety and effective parenting strategies to supporting children online. The theme of Safer Internet Day 2022 was #TalkListenLearn and NPC invited parents to answer a number of questions on their knowledge of their children's online behaviours, how they talk to their children about their online activities, and the supports parents feel they need to be better equipped to support their children's online activities. The survey was completed by 1,007 parents and ran from the 25th of January to the 4th of February 2022.

NPC made a submission to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) on the **Draft Primary Curriculum Framework**. NPC used two methodologies to access parents' views on the framework, a survey and an online consultation. The survey ran from the 16th of March to the 6th of April 2022 with a total of 2,883 responses. The online consultation with parents was held on the 5th of April and 75 parents participated in this event.

In response to a request from the Department of Social Protection, NPC conducted an online survey on the **School Meals Programme** to access parents' views in order to inform a submission to the Department about the current provision and possible future developments. The survey ran from the 2nd of June to the 7th of June 2022 and there were a total of 407 responses. Almost 30% of parents who responded to the survey had a child who accessed the School Meals Programme.

NPC developed two surveys to access the views of both parents and children on the **Anti-bullying procedures for primary and post-primary schools** to inform a submission to the Department of Education on the Review of the Action Plan on Bullying and the Review of the Anti-bullying Procedures for primary and post-primary schools. The surveys ran from the 16th to the 20th of June 2022. Parents were asked to share the children's survey with their children. There were a total of 720 responses to the parents' survey, and 21 responses to the children's one.

The NCCA developed a draft of the **Primary Maths Curriculum** and NPC developed surveys to make a submission to the NCCA with parents' and children's views of same and what their general opinions were around the topic learning Maths. The surveys ran from the 29th of June to the 5th of July 2022, with a total of 868 parent surveys completed and 196 children's surveys. Parents had the opportunity to highlight what they find important about maths learning for their children, as well as being able to share what they feel is working well and highlighting what they would like to change. Children had the opportunity to share their opinions on their own Maths education, what they do and do not enjoy about mathematics, what they find most important about Maths, and their experiences from the school closures due to COVID-19. NPC was invited by the Department of Children, Equality,



Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award 2022

The Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award recognises innovative partnership work between schools and parents which supports children to have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The Fred O'Connell NPC Innovation Award 2022 took place at the NPC AGM on the 24th of September 2022.

The Winners of the Award 2022 were the Parents' Associations of both **Beaumont Boys and Girls National Schools, Cork City** with their winning project '**Establishing a Travel Safe Committee, with the purpose of providing Safer, Healthier, and Greener routes to the school**'.

In second place was The Parents' Association of **St. John the Baptist Boys National School, Cashel, Co. Tipperary**, with their project '**Ensuring that school life continued to be vibrant and enjoyable for all the school community**'.

In third place was The Parents' Association of **Scoil Mhuire, Moynalvey, Co. Meath** with their project '**A combination of initiatives to improve health and wellbeing, enhancing the school environment for children, teachers, and parents**'.

A further 15 Parents' Associations were awarded certificates of achievement for their entries to the Award.

Please click here for further information on the 2022 Award winners

<https://www.npc.ie/news-events/the-fred-oconnell-npc-innovation-award-2022>

Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to attend a consultation session to give feedback on behalf of parents, on the **Early Year's Inspectorate**. TUSLA has an Early Year's Inspectorate, which visits childcare services such as pre-schools and creches and their role is to make sure that childcare services are safe, warm and caring environments for children to play and learn and reach their full potential. To gather parents' views NPC surveyed parents from the 7th to the 12th of October 2022 and received 620 responses to the survey.

NPC conducted a survey on the **Summer Programme/ Provision** from the 17th of October to the 14th of November 2022, there were 1,199 responses from parents. In addition to this survey NPC held a consultation event on the Summer Programme in October 2022. Further to the survey and consultation event, NPC made a submission to the Department of Education on the 'Review of the Summer Programme in Ireland'.

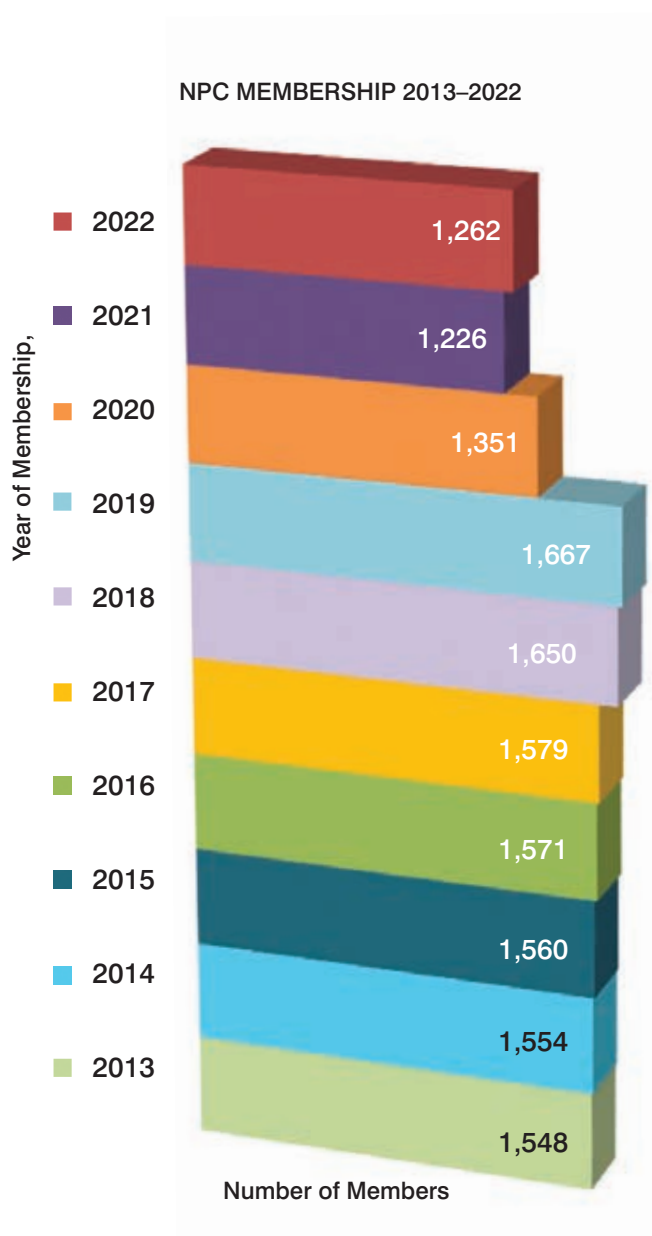
Survey Title	Number of Responses
STEM Education Implementation Plan	3,894
Your child and the Internet	1,007
The redevelopment of the Primary Curriculum	2,883
School meals programme	407
Anti-bullying survey for parents	720
Anti-bullying survey for children	21
Maths curriculum survey for parents	868
Maths curriculum survey for children	196
TUSLA early years' inspectorate survey	620
Summer programme for children with Special Educational Needs	1,199
Total	11,815

Membership

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

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2022

The graph below indicates the trend in membership over the last 10 years. NPC membership has started to increase again following the impact of COVID-19



The table below shows the membership for 2022.

NPC MEMBERSHIP 2022

County	Number of Members
Carlow	22
Cavan	33
Clare	32
Cork	188
Donegal	46
Dublin	179
Galway	65
Kerry	52
Kildare	53
Kilkenny	35
Laois	24
Leitrim	18
Limerick	50
Longford	17
Louth	38
Mayo	27
Meath	65
Monaghan	22
Offaly	24
Roscommon	22
Sligo	29
Tipperary	72
Waterford	29
Westmeath	27
Wexford	58
Wicklow	35
Total	1,262

A young child with blonde hair is shown in profile, looking towards a green chalkboard. The chalkboard is filled with white chalk writing of multiplication problems: 3×3 , 4×4 , and 5×5 .

Financial Report

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2022

I would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee Cáit Delaney, David Mullins and Richa Tyagi, 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 2022 as shown in this Financial Report. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 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 2022.

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, Avril Byrne, Cáit Delaney (*appointed 24 September 2022*), Laurence Keaveney (*Chairperson*), Sue Kennedy Hughes (*appointed 24 September 2022*), Aisling Lawton (*resigned 24 September 2022*), David Mullins, Damian Murray (*resigned 25 March 2022*), Deirdre O'Donovan (*appointed 25 March 2022*) (*resigned 24 September 2022*), Derek O'Leary, Patrick Ryan (*resigned 24 September 2022*), Sonya Ryan, Tara Sherlock, Richa Tyagi (*appointed 24 September 2022*).

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.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital incorporated in the Republic of Ireland under the Companies Acts 2014 on 10 December 1999. The Council does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding €1.27.

The Council was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the entity and is governed under its Articles of Association and managed by a Board of Directors.

The Council has been granted charitable status under Section 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

The Council comply with the Charities Regulators 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 26 August 2022. 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 Constitution which provided for the members of the NPC to nominate people for election to the Board. Following the nomination stage, no nominees were submitted by the members. The Board therefore appointed three new Board members to fill the casual vacancies that arose. These Board members were recruited through the NPC parent database and were selected based on gaps in knowledge and expertise identified by the Board.

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. In addition subject to the provisions of Article 28 of the Council's Constitution the Directors have the power, at any time and from time to time, to appoint any person to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy in the eight Directors at the AGM. These Directors appointed must retire at the next AGM of the Council.

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, five appointed in general meeting, three co-opted by the Directors for a one year term to fill casual vacancies 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 2022. The office remained fully open in 2022 and service offering returned to pre pandemic levels. However, although NPC were able to offer services, the pandemic continued to have an impact on schools and Parents' Associations which did have an impact on the uptake of services. The main areas of impact were:

1. Training - although some training has returned to in-person, NPC continued to deliver training on-line for a large portion of 2022, as most schools only allowed children and school staff on the premises.
2. Partnership Schools - Schools have been very busy places during 2022 attempting to support children's learning and wellbeing following significant school closures. This has impacted schools ability to consider engaging with partnership schools.
3. School closures and restrictions regarding parents in schools in 2022 has impacted the functioning of Parents' Associations, and this has had a knock on impact on membership in NPC.

Objectives and Activities

The main object for which the Council is established is to contribute to the advancement of the education of all children in order to improve and enrich the education of each child and to support the involvement of parents at all stages of such education.

Vision

The Council want to see an Ireland where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Mission

The Council exists to ensure that all parents are supported and empowered to become effective partners in their children's education. The Council will work to increase the capacity and capability of the primary education sector, to achieve true partnership and deliver better outcomes for all children.

Key Activities

The key activities in achieving the vision and mission of the Council are:

1. Representing the parents' voice in primary education
2. Advocacy
3. Building participation
4. Service delivery

Achievements and Performance

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

Financial Review

The Council reported an operating surplus of €40,246 in the year (2021: surplus €48,010). This was due to the return of a full year training provision and some recruitment delays resulting in some unspent salary budgets.

The principal sources of funding received by the Council are from funding grants from the Department of Education 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

The Council had net assets of €389,585 as of the 31st of December 2022. The directors have assessed the ability of the Council to continue as a going concern. 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. The basis for this assumption is confirmation from the Department of Education of continued funding to the end of 2023 and an expectation of continued support from them to provide core funding to the company for the next twelve months from the approval of the financial statements based on the long funding history.

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

Plans for Future Periods

No subsequent events have taken place since the year end that would result in adjustments to these financial statements. In December 2022 however the Department of Education formally requested the National Parents Council - Primary to extend its remit to parents of children in post primary education on an interim basis. The Department have continued to communicate with the National Parents Council - Primary on this issue and have provided additional funding in 2023. The Department of Education has also acknowledged the need for the National Parents Council - Primary to make constitutional changes to reflect the extended remit including the Board's actions to hold an EGM on 25 March 2023. The members supported amendments to the Constitution that allowed Parents' Associations of post primary schools to be admitted on to National Parents Council - Primary's register of members at the EGM. The Department of Education have also supported the National Parents Council - Primary's application to the Charities Regulator to change its name to better reflect its extended remit.

Due to the rapidly changing environment impacting the National Parents Council - Primary at this time the Board decided to extend the duration of its Strategic Plan; "Parents as Partners" and this will now continue to shape the plans and direction for the organisation through 2023. As more certainty develops regarding the organisation's extended remit the Board will commence a consultation process to develop a new Strategic Plan.

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.

On behalf of the Board



Laurence Keaveney
Director



Tara Sherlock
Director

30 June 2023

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

30 June 2023



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 (the company) for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages 11 to 23, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 2022 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 7, 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/publications/description-of-the-auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements/>.

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

30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	*Restricted funds 2022 €	**Unrestricted funds 2022 €	Total funds 2022 €	Total funds 2021 €
Income from				
Charitable activities				
- sponsoring bodies	420,937	381,000	801,937	703,844
Other trading activities				
- membership fees	-	81,733	81,733	75,224
- course fees	-	5,300	5,300	2,050
Investment income	-	63	63	116
Other income	-	2,769	2,769	3,240
Total incoming resources	420,937	470,865	891,802	784,474
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	(420,937)	(430,619)	(851,556)	(736,464)
Total resources expended	(420,937)	(430,619)	(851,556)	(736,464)
Net income for the year	-	40,246	40,246	(48,010)
Total funds brought forward	-	349,339	349,339	301,329
Total funds carried forward	-	389,585	389,585	349,339

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.



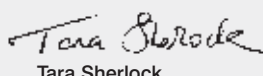
BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2022

	2022 €	2021 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	11,094	12,973
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	461,569	404,914
Debtors	18,005	57,305
	479,574	462,219
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(94,602)	(118,173)
Net current assets	384,972	344,046
Total assets less current liabilities	396,066	357,019
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(6,481)	(7,680)
Net assets	389,585	349,339
Funded by:		
Unrestricted funds	389,585	349,339
Accumulated surplus	389,585	349,339

On behalf of the Board


Laurence Keaveney
Director


Tara Sherlock
Director

DIRECTORS WHO SERVED DURING 2022

Laurence Keaveney

Chairperson

Board meeting attendance 7/7

Expenses €33.00

Massimiliano Boccalari

Board meeting attendance 4/7

Expenses €0.00

Avril Byrne

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0.00

Cáit Delaney appointed 24.09.2022

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0.00

Sue Kennedy Hughes appointed 24.09.2022

Board meeting attendance 1/2

Expenses €0.00

Aisling Lawton resigned 24.09.2022

Board meeting attendance 5/5

Expenses €0.00

David Mullins

Board meeting attendance 5/7

Expenses €0.00

Damian Murray resigned 25.03.2022

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0.00

Deirdre O'Donovan appointed 25.03.2022

resigned 24.09.2022

Board meeting attendance 3/4

Expenses €0.00

Derek O'Leary

Board meeting attendance 6/7

Expenses €0.00

Patrick Ryan resigned 24.09.2022

Board meeting attendance 5/5

Expenses €0.00

Sonya Ryan

Board meeting attendance 3/7

Expenses €0.00

Tara Sherlock

Board meeting attendance 5/7

Expenses €0.00

Richa Tyagi appointed 24.09.2022

Board meeting attendance 2/2

Expenses €0.00

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

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022

Audit Committee

- Tara Sherlock (Chair) 5/5
- Derek O'Leary 4/5
- Aisling Lawton 5/5
- Damian Murray 4/5

Governance Committee

- Sonya Ryan (Chair) 2/2
- Sue Kennedy Hughes 2/2
- Max Boccalari 1/2
- Avril Byrne 2/2



NPC STAFF

Áine Lynch	Chief Executive
Rob Walpole	Deputy Chief Executive
Catherine Cross	Services Manager
Clare Downey	Early Years Services Manager
Carmel O'Shea	Advocacy Services Manager
Richard Quinn	Financial Administrator
Shashank Srinivas	Communications and Membership Officer
René O'Malley	Helpline Officer
Michelle Scanlan	Helpline Officer
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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Dublin 1

D01 XP86

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Helpline:

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