

Building Futures Together

A Strategic Plan for Supporting Parents of Children
and Young People in Education through Partnership

2024

2028



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Foreword

Building Futures Together

NPC's new Strategic Plan "Building Futures Together" 2024-2028 has been developed to build on our resolve to seek the best possible outcomes for children in education from Early Years all the way through Primary and Post-Primary education.

Over the last number of decades there has been a wealth of research which shows the difference that partnership between home, school and communities can make in the educational outcomes for children. As the National Parents Council for parents of children in education this research is of vital importance to us in charting our way forward over the next 5 years.

The National Parents Council is committed to an evidence based approach in setting its strategic direction and this strategy is built on that evidence and NPC's experience over the last thirty-nine years.

As we embark on our next chapter with the expansion of our remit to include parents of children in post-primary schools, our key commitment in this strategy is to build on our advocacy and services in a quality driven approach. Developing a new national organisation for parents of children from birth to the end of their compulsory education.

Effective Governance systems are at the core of building this capacity and the future development of the new NPC.



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Áine Lynch CEO



William Earley Chairman

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Introduction

National Parents Council (NPC) is the only recognised representative organisation for parents of children in early, primary and post-primary education.

NPC was established as a charitable organisation in 1985, under the programme for Government, as the representative organisation for parents of children attending primary school and has been extended to cover parents with children in early years in 2017 and in post-primary in 2022. NPC received statutory recognition in the Education Act 1998.



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Key Activities



NPC has four key activities



ADVOCACY

NPC engages in awareness-raising activities and campaigning and lobbying at a national level on the Mission, Vision, and Values of the organisation

NPC builds participation strategies and activities to ensure parents and children are an integral part of the work of NPC.

BUILDING PARTICIPATION

SERVICE DELIVERY

NPC's Helpline and Training services are developed to empower parents so that they can support their children in all aspects of education.

NPC represents the voice of parents through representation on external bodies and other mediums. NPC consults with parents and brings parents' views to bear on education policy.

REPRESENTING PARENTS



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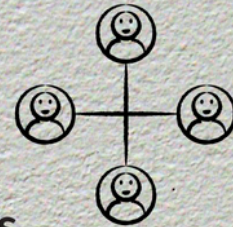
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Key Achievements 2018-2023

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

35

schools have become Partnership Schools



HELPLINE

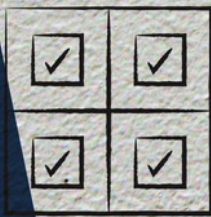
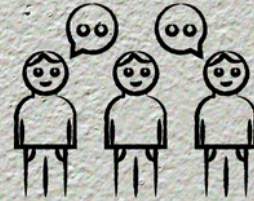
15,369

people contacted our helpline service

TRAINING

63,412

people attended an NPC training course



Surveys

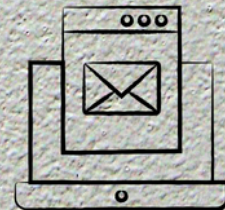
100,724

adults and children completed an NPC survey

WEBSITE

365,865

visitors to the NPC website



GOVERNANCE

NPC has achieved full compliance with the Charity Regulators Governance Code and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for financial and activity reporting



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Developing the Strategic Plan

NPC's strategic plan has been developed with the knowledge that its successful implementation will rely heavily on the ownership that our members and key supporters have of the goals and aspirations contained within it. With this in mind, NPC undertook an extensive consultation exercise during the process of developing the key themes of this strategy.

The process for the strategic plan consultation and the subsequent development of the draft strategic plan was carried out by the Board and members of the Executive team.

During the consultation phase NPC sought input through surveys and online and face-to-face focus groups, from members, non-members, strategic stakeholders, children, the general public and the NPC staff and Board. In total, over 300 people's voices and opinions were heard and have contributed to developing a strategy that will drive all NPC activities over the next five years.



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Our Vision

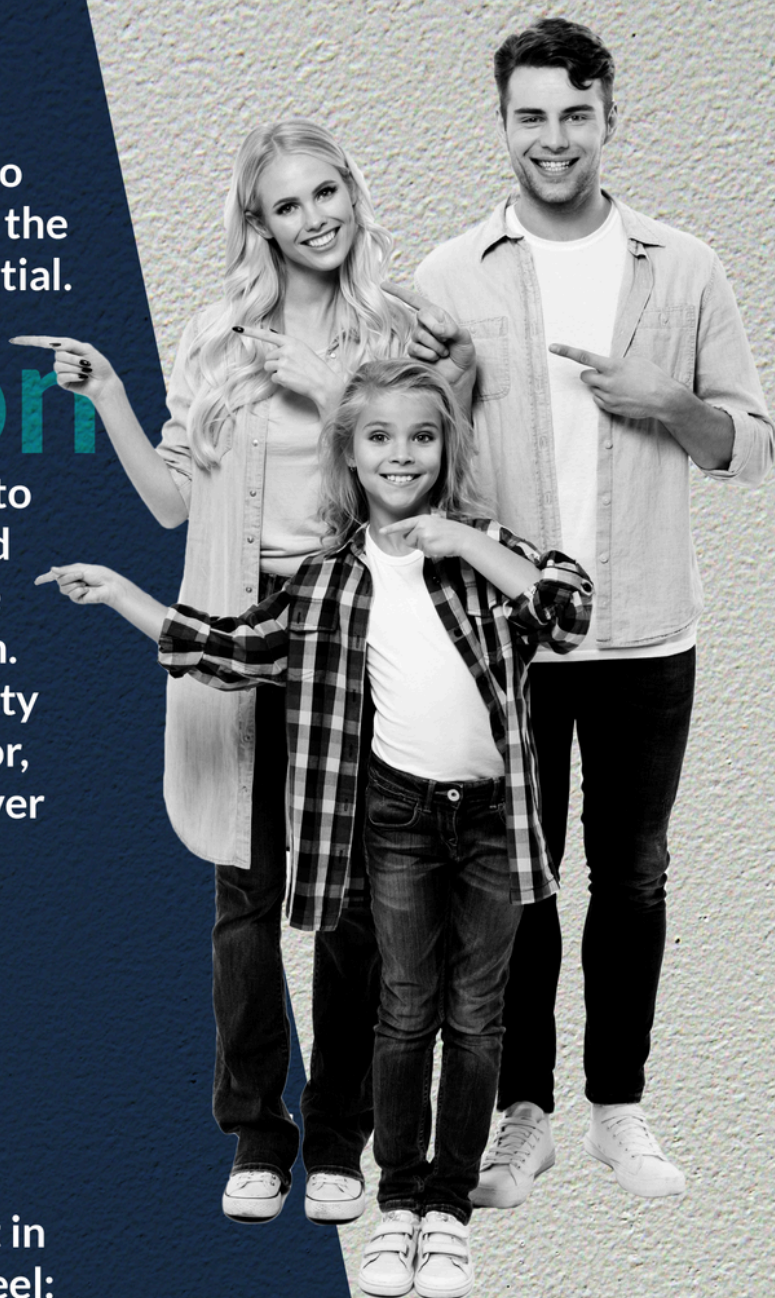
The National Parents Council want to see an Ireland where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our Mission

The National Parents Council 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 and young people.

Values

NPC knows that when parents and schools work together, children do better. Therefore, NPC believes that in order to achieve this parents must feel:



1 **Engaged:** Parents must be actively engaged in the education of their children.

2 **Supported:** Parents' involvement in children's education must be supported by the attitudes, beliefs and practices of all members of the school and broader education community.

3 **Partners:** Parents must be viewed as partners in facilitating children's learning and be supported in this role by the school and broader education community.

4 **Valued:** Parents should be viewed as full partners in the decisions that affect their children and their family.

5 **Welcomed:** Parents should be welcome in the school, and their support and assistance sought as a valuable resource to support children's education in the school.

6 **Connected:** All communication and dialogue with parents must be regular, open, two-way and meaningful.



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The Plan

OUR KEY ACTIVITIES 2024-2028

Representing the Parents' Voice in Early Years, Primary and Post Primary Education:

Over the next 5 years NPC will continue to serve as voice of parents through its representation on external bodies and other mediums. It will continue to develop policy by consulting with parents. It will increase its capacity to consult with and represent parents' voices through better and increased use of information technologies, social media platforms and building on the NPC website as its main communication hub

Advocacy:

Over the next 5 years NPC will focus on the mission, vision, and values of the organisation of this strategy

Building Participation in NPC: Over the next 5 years NPC will focus increased efforts on building the participation of parents and children and young people in the activities and work of NPC.

Service Delivery:

NPC Helpline: Over the next 5 years NPC will continue to run its national confidential helpline supporting parents and partnership with parents in education. The helpline will continue to develop its evaluation mechanisms to ensure that it builds on its high standard of service delivery.

Training and Development: Over the next 5 years NPC will continue to provide a national Training and Development programme to parents and schools. It will expand its training programmes and continue to build on its evaluation mechanisms to ensure a continued high standard of service delivery.



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OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

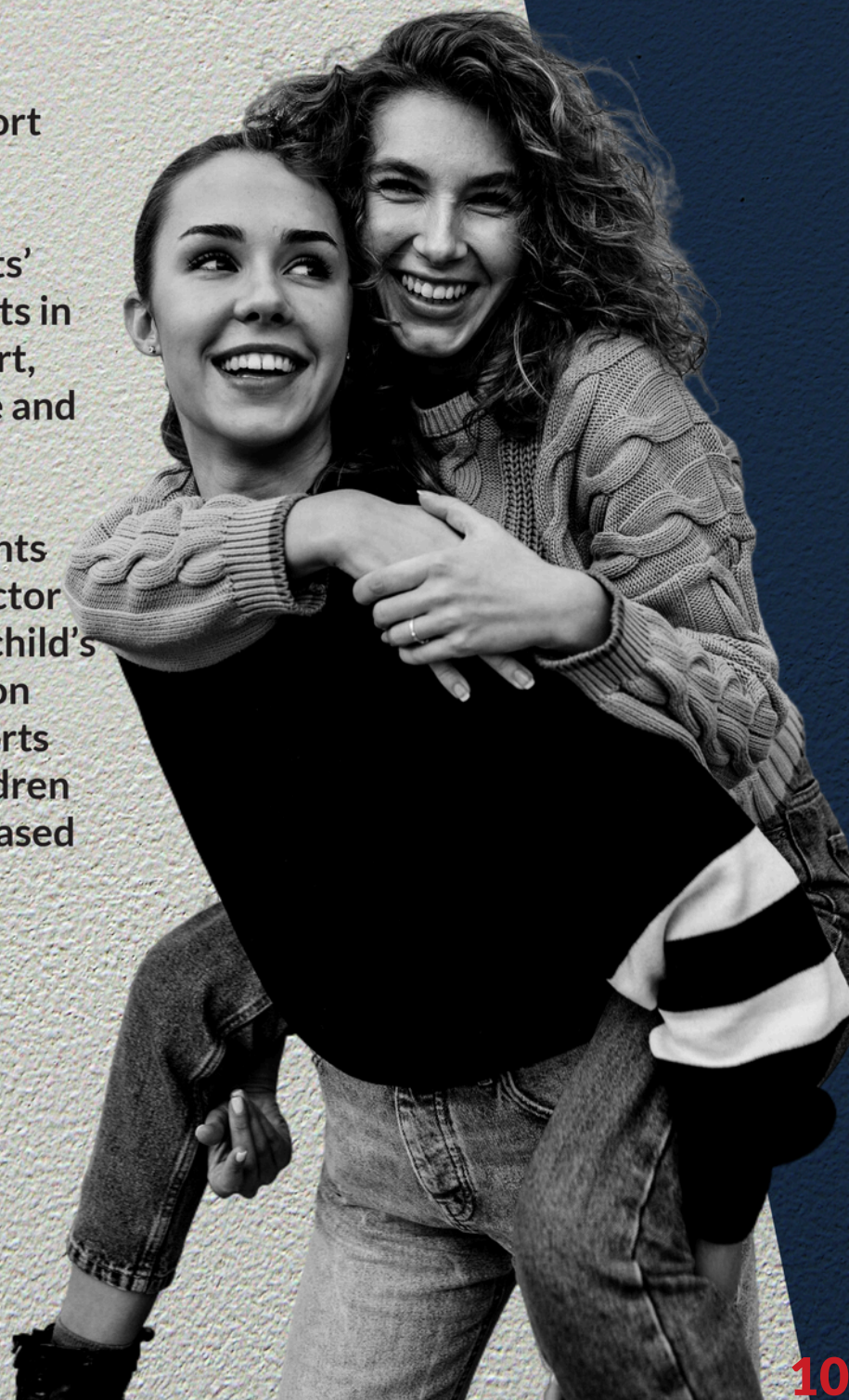
NPC's Mission is to ensure that all parents are supported and empowered to become effective partners in their children's education and that NPC will work to increase the capacity and capability of the education sector, to achieve true partnership and deliver better outcomes for all children and young people. Building on NPC's Strategy 2018-2022, NPC will continue to shape its new strategy based on the existing strategic objectives headings. These objectives were developed using an evidence based framework for partnership with parents

PARENTING

NPC will support parents to support their children's education by:

Providing supports to both Parents' Associations and individual parents in education through training support, the provision of a Helpline service and through on-line supports.

Developing new services for parents of children in the Post Primary sector to support them to support their child's learning. These will seek to build on NPC's existing services and supports extending them to parents of children in the post primary sector on a phased basis.



COMMUNICATING

NPC will develop and implement a comprehensive Communication Strategy to ensure it is delivering quality information to parents associations and individual parents and is able to hear their voices in matters that affect them.

The Children's Participation Unit- A children's participation strategy will be developed to further build on the unit's work in NPC to include the child's voice in the work of the organisation and strengthen the voice of the child within education.

Hosting an annual conference for parents and other key stakeholders in the area of partnership with parents in education. The conference will provide information and support to all parents



LEARNING AT HOME

NPC will provide information and assistance to parents at home and in schools so that they can give increased support to their children, and help provide for the best possible outcomes in their educational lives by:

Providing on-line supports and activities for families of children in early years, primary and post-primary settings in the area of learning at home.

Presenting the Annual NPC Innovation Award, recognising schools and Parents' Associations who are showing leadership and innovation in supporting partnership with parents.

Ensuring that NPC service provision is designed to support both Parents' Associations and individual parents.



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VOLUNTEERING

The NPC Parent Association Delegate role will be redeveloped and supported to ensure that all NPC members are assisted to provide an effective structure for parents in their schools and also ensuring a stronger connection between NPC and its members.



DECISION MAKING

NPC will continue to strengthen parents' role in decision making at home, school and national level by:

Develop a research strategy that ensures that NPC continues to follow evidence based principles in its work and also drives new understandings.

Working in collaboration with our partners in education to ensure the Student and Parent Charter becomes an effective mechanism for change.

Continuing to strengthen the voice of parents on issues affecting parents and children in early years, primary and post primary education through effective consultation mechanisms.

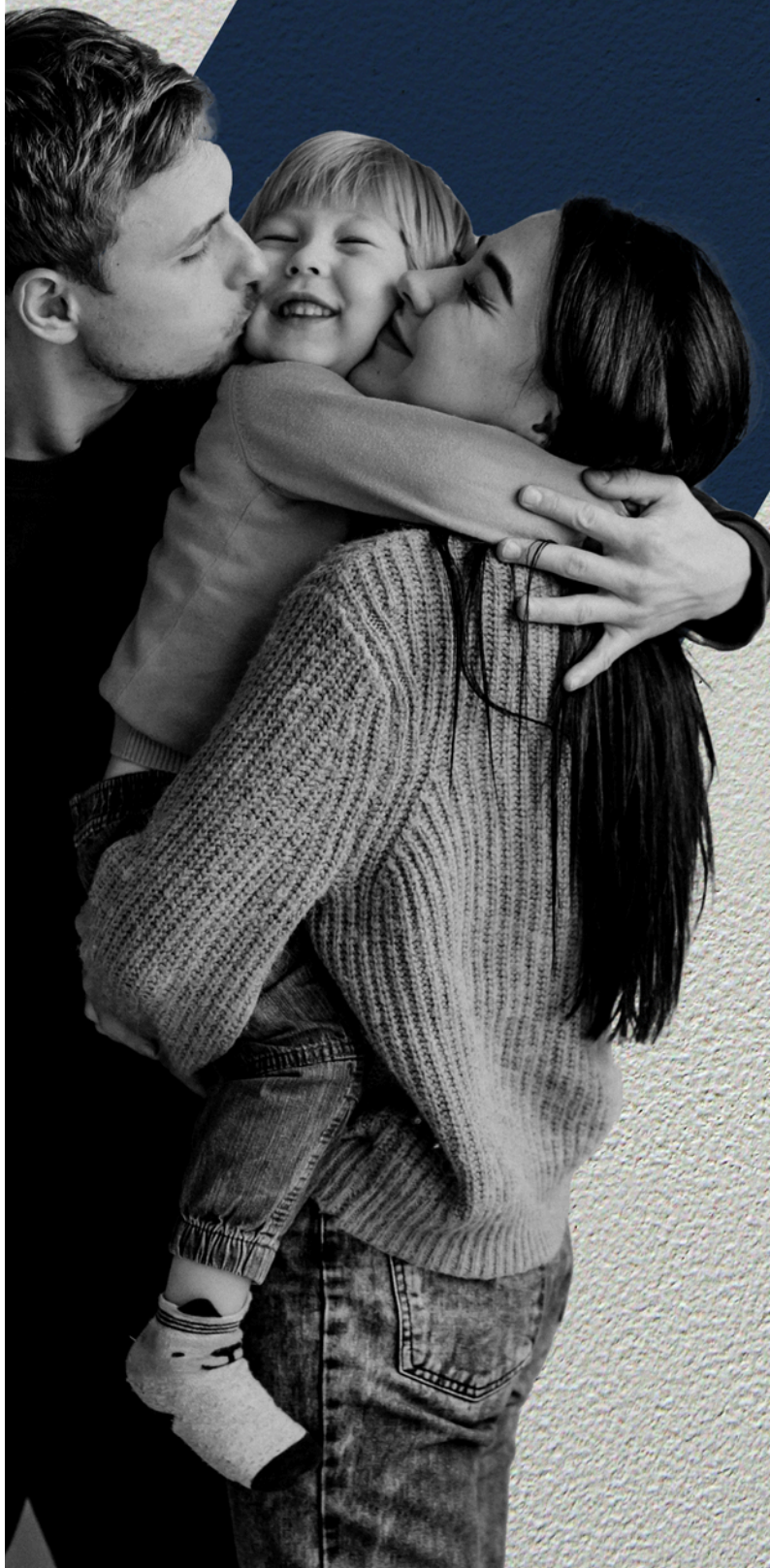
Develop a new Advocacy Unit within NPC which will develop and implement an advocacy strategy for NPC.

As part of the new advocacy unit NPC will develop a new parent support service that works to support parents navigate the education system including the complaints and appeals processes within the education sector.



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COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY

NPC cannot achieve its Vision alone and is committed to working in partnership with others who share NPC's aspirations by:

Developing partnerships within the Post primary sector to support NPC's new work and services for parents of children attending post primary schools.

Building on strategic partnerships and developing new partnerships with others in the Early years and Primary education sectors.

Continuing to build our partnership work with Teacher Education Colleges and other partners in our programme that supports initial teacher education students to work effectively with parents.

Seeking strategic partnerships whenever appropriate and where there is clear added value in the delivery of this Strategy.

Ensuring that working in partnership is always focused on better outcomes for children and young people.



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INCREASING NPC'S EFFECTIVENESS

NPC is committed to delivering on the key activities and six objectives of its strategic plan over the next five years. To be able to deliver on these objectives, it is important that NPC continues to increase its

NPC will continue to be a transparent and accountable organisation and will seek to enhance its effectiveness by:

Continuing to assess and build on the effectiveness of the Board by ensuring the Board reviews its performance and engages in appropriate training in relation to the delivery of this Strategic Plan

Maintaining its compliance with the two relevant good practice standards for charities currently in operation in Ireland: The Charity Regulators' Governance Code and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for finance and activity reporting

Ensuring that up-to-date organisational information is easily found on our website including NPC's Annual Review, Annual Audited Accounts and organisational structure and contacts

Its commitment to training and developing its staff and volunteers to support the delivery of this Strategic Plan



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