



**NATIONAL PARENTS  
COUNCIL PRIMARY (NPC)**

## Introduction

National Parents Council Primary (NPC) is the representative organisation for parents of children in primary or early education. This education can take place in a setting of parental choice. Some parents choose to educate their children in a variety of school or preschool settings while others may choose to educate their children at home.

National Parents Council Primary was set up in 1985, under the programme for Government, as the representative organisation for parents of children attending primary school, and received statutory recognition in the Education Act 1998.

NPC has charitable status and is a company limited by guarantee. It has a board of directors and employs a chief executive and staff.

## NPC mission statement

'National Parents Council Primary is 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.'

## NPC Structure

### • Members

There are two categories of membership within NPC. Full members of NPC are all parent associations who apply for membership and are entered on to the NPC members' register. These members can avail of all membership benefits including voting rights within the organisation. NPC also has Associate members. This membership includes individuals or groups that support the aims of NPC but are not parent associations. Associate members are not full members and do not have voting rights within NPC although they are able to avail of other membership benefits. All members pay an annual affiliation fee.

### • County Branches

The NPC County Branch is a structure through which parents and parent associations in a county can come together and work together for the best possible education for their children. Parent associations affiliated to NPC may elect representatives to their County Branch.

At county level parents exchange ideas about childrens' education, share experiences, develop partnerships between children teachers and parents, and discuss educational issues of local and national importance.

The counties channel the views, ideas and concerns of the local parents to the National level through their elected Assembly members.

### • The Assembly

The Assembly is the body concerned primarily with developing NPC education policy and each County Branch may elect 2 representatives to sit on the Assembly. The Assembly also has members from the NPC Special Interest Groups (see over). The Assembly meets at least three times a year and as NPC's education policy-making body, it is important that the Assembly is widely representative of all demographics of parental opinion.

The Assembly also has other functions, one of which is to submit from its membership nominees for election to the NPC Board as required. The election of Board members is then carried out by the members of NPC.

- **Special Interest Groups**

NPC has Special Interest groups that represent parents of children:

In Scoileanna Lán Gaeilge/ Gaeltacht schools

In Minority Religion schools

With Special Education Needs either in special schools or in mainstream schools.

These groups may be added to from time to time where a need arises and when agreed by the NPC Board.

Each of the Special Interest groups has an elected representative on the NPC Assembly facilitating their views to be represented at National level.

- **NPC Board of Directors**

The NPC Board is nominated from the membership of the Assembly and is elected by the members of NPC at a General meeting. The Board of Directors are responsible for the governance of all NPC business.

## **NPC Services**

NPC services are aimed at empowering parents so that they can support their children in all aspects of education.

- **Helpline**

The NPC helpline is a national confidential service for parents. The helpline staff listen, and give information and support to parents to help them make the best possible decisions for and with their children. The helpline is open from 10am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday. You can telephone the helpline on 01-8874477 or send an email to [helpline@npc.ie](mailto:helpline@npc.ie)

- **Training and Development**

The NPC Training and Development programme is a national programme of training, development and support for parents. The purpose is to empower parents to play an active part in their child's education at every level.

Training courses include; Parent Association Training, Board of Management Training, Relationships and Sexuality Training, and Internet Safety Training. To enquire further about our training telephone us on 01-8874475 or email [training@npc.ie](mailto:training@npc.ie)

- **Website**

The NPC's website [www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie) aims to provide parents with information regarding primary education. The site also allows parents an opportunity to give NPC their views regarding primary education issues. Parts of the website are now available in 5 languages; French, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Urdu.

As well as the three service areas above NPC are active in

### **Advocating for and representing parents**

NPC consults with parents and brings parent's views to bear on education policy.

### **Facilitating and supporting the development of parent associations**

NPC facilitates and supports parents to develop associations in their schools and supports the organisation of county level and local area level support networks for parents.



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