

Greetings from the new Press Relations Officer of NPCpp



Jackie O Callaghan,
PRO of NPCpp.

In view of the proposed cuts in education and the cutbacks in services, I, as a parent would **APPEAL TO YOU TO LEND YOUR VOICE and BACKING TO THOSE OF OUR SECOND and THIRD LEVEL STUDENTS WHO ARE OPPOSING THESE COSTS and CUTS.** I would hope that every child who aspires to PLC or third level IT and college will get the opportunity to go there.

In light of the fact that we **ARE FACING INTO A GENERAL ELECTION I WOULD ASK THAT YOU LET YOUR POLITICIANS KNOW THAT THEY ARE PUTTING AT RISK ,THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY** and that we the parents are not happy.

The time will not be long now for the filling in of the CAO form and it is hugely important that students fill this in correctly. Get students to seek help from their guidance councillor or a teacher in the school. Filling the CAO correctly in the first place will prove so worthwhile later on in the time and will leave both the student and you the parent less stressed.

Thanks to funding from the Department of Education and

Skills (DES), there will be more parent training days in 2011, so

keep an eye on the NPCpp website (www.npcpp.ie) and the Newsletters. The 2010 training initiatives have been successfully completed and NPCpp has received excellent feedback from the participants, many who have written to head office to express their happiness with this training development. I encourage all parents to avail of the training opportunities now available to them. E-mail any queries to Sandra at NPCpp for all things educational and NPCpp will respond.

On behalf of President Tommy Walshe, the Executive, Directors and Staff of NPCpp, I would like to wish all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. Stay safe and warm and NPCpp will be in contact with you in 2011.

Le gach dea ghúí
Jackie O Callaghan
Public Relations Officer
NPCpp

NPCpp Strategic Plan

National parents' Council post-primary (NPCpp) aims to provide a forum that actively supports parents/ guardians in their parenting role and to interact effectively with schools and other education partners on issues that impact on the education, development and general well-being of young people within the post-primary education system.

NPCpp is the voice and advocate for parents/guardians of young people in post-primary education. It serves and

represents parents and guardians, principally through engagement with Parents Associations. In consultation with its Constituent Bodies (COMPASS, CSPA, FED CBS, NPAVSCC & PACCS), NPCpp, offers co-ordinated training, interaction, information and engagement with parents and guardians.

Currently NPCpp is working to:

- have an effective Parents Association in place in every school
- communicate with all parents and guardians of young people in post-primary education
- support parents and guardians in being active partners in education
- challenge parents and guardians to participate
- provide a structure through which parents and guardians can inform and influence policy development
- take an active role in influencing policy at a national level
- build strong partnerships with key education stakeholders

In 2009 NPCpp finalised its Strategic Plan with the aim of directing its energies towards identifying Strategy, with specific Goals while delivering progress with the objectives outlined within each Strategy and/or Goal. The then President of NPCpp Mr Jim Moore and his enlightened NPCpp Directors commenced work to deliver on the plan.

Strategy 1: Effective Voice for Parents/Guardians

Goal 1: to protect the recognised constitutional right of parents

and guardians as the primary and natural educator of the child

Objective: Build capacity at NPCpp to address all elements of its remit

Goal 2: utilise NPCpp and its constituent bodies as a vehicle through which parents associations are made effective

Objective: To work via effective Parents Associations in every school

Goal 3: to ensure a co-ordinated approach to issues of importance to parents and guardian

Objective: Develop national co-ordinated approach that can be employed on a nationwide basis

Goal 4: use the collective strength of all constituent bodies to progress the Goals of the NPCpp and the specialist areas of interest of each constituent body

Objective: Develop a system of co-operation and collaboration that is mutually beneficial to the NPCpp and its Constituent Bodies

Strategy 2: Proactive Communication

Goal 1: maximise the awareness of NPCpp within all relevant stakeholder groups

Objective: Ensure that the Constituent Bodies of the NPCpp, Parents Associations and other key stakeholders are aware of the activities of the Council at all times at a national, regional and local level

Goal 2: define and communicate the role and contribution of the NPCpp

Objective: Develop a clear and focused message about the contribution the NPCpp makes and demonstrate and communicate its role to all stakeholders

Goal 3: define the various lines of communication on issues within the remit of NPCpp

Objective: Develop policy on areas to be directly dealt with by NPCpp and those to be channelled through Constituent Bodies

Strategy 3: Policy Development

Goal 1: agree process by which to develop the policies required by the NPCpp

Objective 1: Define how policy is formulated within the NPCpp

Objective 2: Set agenda of policy areas and develop written policies

Objective 3: Establish how policy is disseminated within and outside NPCpp

Strategy 4: Service Development

Goal 1: monitor the ongoing value of NPCpp to constituent bodies and ensure that constituent bodies are strengthened by their involvement in NPCpp

Objective: Use the collective strength of Constituent Bodies to progress NPCpp and Constituent Body services.

Goal 2: define the national, regional and local remit of NPCpp

Objective 1: Ensure that the NPCpp effectively advocates for parents and Guardians issues nationally, regionally and locally

Objective 2: Establish a research and development unit within NPCpp.

Progress to date:

1. Over the past year NPCpp has entered into negotiations with its constituent members (COMPASS, CSPA, FED CBS, NPAVSCC & PACCS), the DES and the National School Management organisations (ACCS, JMB and IVEA) with a view to progressing the strategies, goals and objectives as identified above.
2. NPCpp now publishes regular Newsletters for the benefit of its membership (5 per annum,) with informative articles to keep Parents/Guardians fully aware of developments within education.
3. NPCpp has founded and supported the establishment and development of the Post-Primary Education Forum (PPEF) in a positive initiative focused on lobbying against cuts in

education that have been developing from the difficult economic circumstances in our nation in recent times.

4. NPCpp arranged during the Spring and Summer of 2010 a 'Training of Trainers' initiative (20/02/10 Limerick, 27/02/10 Navan, 06/03/10 Ballyshannon, 17/04/10 Athlone, 24/04/10 Castlebar, 05/05/10 Carrick on Shannon, 08/05/10 Bailieboro 15/05/10 Carlow, 22/05/10 Cork and 12/06/10 Dublin).

NPCpp in conjunction with Le Chéile and CEIST (Catholic Post Primary Schools Trust Bodies) provided training for parents who are members of Parent Associations - CEIST: 19/10/10 Lucan, 20/10/10 Tullamore and Le Chéile: 02/11/10 Dublin, 09/11/10 Dublin, and 10/11/10 Galway. NPCpp wishes to acknowledge the positive and welcome financial support of the DES with the above in-service provision. The In-service provision empowered Parents/Guardians and enabled participants to play a more informed and positive role within Parent Associations in the post-primary schools their children attend.

NPCpp remains committed to providing further in-service training opportunities for Parents/Guardians into 2011. A fully informed and empowered parent body is essential if Parents/Guardians are to exercise their real leadership role with education.

NPCpp is also currently reviewing its structures to see how it can deliver a better, more informed and beneficial service to Parents/Guardians. The aim of establishing a more informed parent body who are aware of their rights and responsibilities and, who will play a real partnership role in the education sector by contributing positively

towards the education and welfare of the post-primary students in our schools. Further information on NPCpp may be secured from National Parents Council post -primary, Unit 5, Glasnevin Business Centre, Ballyboggan Road, Dublin 11. Telephone 01 8302740 or 087 2593168 or local 1890 672770 or website www.NPCpp.ie

“Never underestimate that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has”

*Margaret Mead
Anthropologist
1901 - 1978*

Cyber Bullying

Bullying is not a new phenomenon. However the ways in which it happens is changing. Technologies are being used by young people for a wide range of activities that annoy, harass, and intimidate each other. Depending on the context, these behaviours can be considered anywhere on a spectrum from relatively harmless to very damaging. We need to be mindful that posting nasty comments on someone's profile or uploading photographs intended to embarrass someone do not, by itself, constitute bullying. Bullying can reasonably be regarded as behaviour that is sustained or repeated over time and which characteristically involves a disparity between the power of the perpetrator and the victim.

Children in Ireland are less likely to be bullied online than their European counterparts according to EU Kids Online 2010 research. About 4 per cent of Irish children say they have been bullied on the internet sometime in the past 12 months. The EU average for online bullying is 5 per cent.

Types of online harassment?

- **PERSONAL INTIMIDATION** – this behaviour includes receiving threatening SMS messages, posting abusive and threatening comments on the victim's profile or other websites, or sending threatening messages via instant messaging.
- **IMPERSONATION** – This behaviour involves setting up fake profiles and web pages that are attributed to the victim and it can also involve gaining access to someone's profile or instant messaging account and using it to contact others while impersonating the account or profile owner.
- **EXCLUSION** – This behaviour involves blocking an individual from a popular group or community such as a school or class group in Bebo, deleting them from friendship lists, and/or using 'ignore functions';
- **PERSONAL HUMILIATION** - This behaviour involves posting images or videos intended to embarrass someone, it can involve users sharing and posting images or videos of victims being abused or humiliated offline, or users sharing personal communications such as e-mails or text messages with a wider audience than was intended by the sender.
- **FALSE REPORTING** - This behaviour involves making false reports to the service provider or reporting other users for a range of behaviours with a view to having the user's account or website deleted.

Key Advice for Children:

1. Don't Reply to messages that harass or annoy you. Even though you may really want to, this is exactly what the sender wants. They want to know that they've got you worried and upset. If you respond with an even nastier message it makes them think that they really got to you, and that's just what they

want. They might even complain about you!

2. Keep the Message you don't have to read it, but keep it. If you keep getting messages that upset you, you will need to have evidence in order to get help. Website owners, mobile phone companies and the Gardaí will all look for evidence before they will be able to take any action to help you.

3. Block the Sender. You don't need to put up with someone harassing you. If you are getting messages that upset you can block the person simply by clicking the block button. On some mobile phones you can block a caller's number.

4. Tell someone you trust. Talking to your parents, friends, or someone you trust is usually the first step in dealing with any issue. In the case of school related bullying messages you should also talk to a teacher you trust or guidance counsellor about it. You can. If you need to speak to someone straight away please call **Childline** on **1800 66 66 66**. The phone service is still the quickest way to talk to Childline.

Simon Grehan

National Centre for Technology in Education,
Dublin City University,
Dublin 9.



Tel: +353 -1- 7008200

www.webwise.ie, www.ncte.ie

Internet Tips for Parents/Guardians

98% of young people in Ireland use the Internet. 44% are online every day. 28% access the Internet through personal devices like mobile phones and games machines. Young people are primarily going online to make friends, play games, download music, and do their homework. As parents, the most important thing you can do to

reduce the online risks is to engage with their digital lifestyle.

Find out more at:

www.webwise.ie.

Webwise is the NCTE's Internet safety initiative. Webwise provides internet safety information, advice, and tools to parents, teachers, and students. Webwise is part-funded by the EC's Safer Internet Programme. NCTE, DCU, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Tel: (01) 700 8200 Email: internetsafety@ncte.ie Web: www.webwise.ie

Tips for Parents

1. Discover the Internet together
Be the one to introduce your child to the Internet.
This could make it easier to share both positive and negative experiences in the future.
2. Agree with your child on rules for Internet use. Try to reach an agreement with your child on how long they should spend online and what types of sites and activities are ok.
3. Encourage your child to be careful when disclosing personal information
They should be selective about what personal information and photos they post to online spaces. Once material is online it is subject to all kinds of unauthorised use.
4. Talk about the risks associated with meeting online friends.
Young people are making friends online but they should only physically meet these strangers in the company of an adult or others they trust.
5. Teach your child about 'source criticism' on the Internet
Not all information found online is correct. Educate your children on how to verify information they find.
6. Don't be too critical towards your child's exploration of the Internet Remember; it is not always their fault if they come across inappropriate content on the Web.

7. Report online material you may consider illegal to the appropriate authorities. It is important that we all take responsibility for the Web and report matters which we believe could be illegal to

www.hotline.ie.

8. Encourage respect for others
As in everyday life there are informal ethical rules for how to behave when relating to other people on the Internet.
9. Know your child's Internet use
To be able to guide your child's Internet use, whether it's on their mobile phone or PC, it is important to understand how children use the Internet and know what they like to do online.
10. Remember that the positive aspects of the Internet outweigh the negative aspects.
The Internet is an excellent educational and recreational resource for children. Encourage your child to be Webwise and explore the Internet to its full potential.



"Focus on the Future!"

Engineers Week offers a fun-packed programme of FREE interactive events and activities! Students will gain an understanding of the wonderful, life enhancing, exciting challenges and developments engineers are involved in and responsible for.

Each participant will receive a Certificate of Participation as well as the chance to WIN a fantastic trip to NEMO Science Centre in Amsterdam. The overall winner of this once in a lifetime prize will discover what it is like to live and work in space!
Log on to www.engineersweek.ie to see what events are taking place in your area and for relevant booking details.

Further information may be secured from Ms. Kate Cannon Engineers Ireland, Co-ordinator, STEPS Programme

Engineers Ireland

T: + 353 (01) 6651343

F: + 353 (01) 6651350

M: + 353 (0) 87 2444098

www.engineersireland.ie

www.steps.ie

<http://www.engineersweek.ie/>



University/ Institute of Technology

Open Days/Evenings:

1. DIT, Aungier St. : Mature Student Information Evening
11th January, Street Sciences & Health 26th March Dublin
2. Business School & DBS School of Arts, 12th January
3. National College of Ireland (NCI): 15th January and 30th March
4. University of Limerick: 16th January: Nursing & Midwifery Jan/Feb Mature Open Evening (date TBD) 24th March. Graduate Entry to Medicine.
5. Griffith College: 19th January, Apr 27th
6. Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, January 19th
7. American College 5th January, 19th January 9th February, 23rd February, 16th March
8. National University of Ireland Galway April 2nd
9. University College Cork (NUI) 14th April.

National Parents Council pp

Unit 5 Glasnevin Business Centre,
Ballyboggan Road, Dublin 11
Tel: (01) 8302740 / 8302747
Mobile number 087 2593168
Exam Helpline: 1800 265 165
Fax: (01) 8302752
Locall: 1890 672770
e-mail: npcpp@eircom.net
Website: www.npcpp.ie
Open: Monday – Friday,
10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
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