

## What is the Parent Association?

The parent association is the structure through which the parents/guardians of the children in the Gaelscoil can work together for the best possible education of their children. The parent association works with the principal, staff and the Board of Management to build effective partnership between home and school.

## Why have a Parent Association?

Research has shown that children do better, behave better and are happier at school where parents and teachers work closely together and when parents are able to give their children support at home.

Teachers can do a better job where they are supported by and working closely with parents.

Parents can do a better job when they have the support of other parents. The Gaelscoil draws children from a wide geographical area and the association fosters a community spirit based around the Gaelscoil.

All parents together can play their part in planning for the best possible education of

their children, through the association's programme of activities.

The parent association will promote the interests of the students in co-operation with the board, principal, teacher and students, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, 1998.

## The Role of the Parent Association

The parent association raises substantial funds for the school. The parent association raises' approximately €10,000 per year. This money assists in financing activities such as tin whistle, swimming, sports equipment, French classes, and school trips.

We consult with parents and provide a forum for parents to express their views on school policy and matters relating to the school.

We advise the principal and the Board of Management on any matters relating to the school in accordance with the Education Act 1998, 26 (2) (a).

We organise and fund information evenings and workshops for parents on relevant topics. We also host social events for parents and their families e.g. Treasure Hunt/Céilí.

## Range of Fundraising Activities run by the Gaelscoil Parent Association:

- Bag Packing
- Table Quiz
- Monthly Draw
- Raffles
- Christmas Cards

## Insurance Cover

The parent association has an Insurance Policy to cover the association in the event of a claim.

## Membership of the Parent Association

**All parents/guardians of children attending Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré will be deemed to be members of the association.**

## The Committee of the Parent Association

The committee of the parent's association should comprise of at least two parents from each class within the school to ensure a fair and balanced representation of the parents within the school.

The members of the association will elect a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

The committee of the parents association will draw up a plan for the activities of the association for the year ahead, in consultation with the parents and the school principal.

The committee may co-opt people onto the committee to assist in their work. Sub-committees may be set up for particular tasks.

## Finance

The parent association raises substantial funds to assist the school in providing a wide range of educational activities for our children.

Full accounts are maintained by the treasurer and presented at the parent association Annual General Meeting.

The parent association maintains a bank account in its name. The treasurer and one other member of the committee must sign cheques drawn on the account.

Funds raised by the parent association are transferred to the Board of Management account. The expenditure of these funds is by the Board of Management, in consultation with the parent association.

## Membership of the National Parents Council (Primary): NPC (P)

The parent association will affiliate to the National Parents Council Primary on an annual basis. Membership of the NPC (P) brings many benefits:

- Access to information
- Training Programmes
- Support Systems
- A channel for views on education to influence policy at national level
- Reduced insurance costs for parent association activities



## The Constitution of the Parent Association of Gaeilscoil Chnoc na Ré