

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The aim of this handbook is to inform members, parents and friends about the North Dublin National School Project School (NDNSP Patron Body). We hope that this will encourage people to participate more fully in the activities and development of the school. Sources of further information (including contacts) are given throughout this handbook.*

*This handbook covers:-*

- 1. History, purposes and ambitions of NDNSP School and Patron Body.*
- 2. How NDNSP School and Patron Body is organised*
- 3. Details of other schools in the Multi-denominational sector.*
- 4. The up-to-date position regarding the school.*

*The NDNSP Patron Committee and Board of Management would welcome any comments or suggestions regarding this edition.*

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **THE NATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

*National school education was established in Ireland in 1830 as a system in which children of all religions were educated together. By 1873 denominational control of the schools was an established fact and continued to develop into the National School system as we know it today. For a more detailed account, see John Coolahan "Irish Education: its History and Structure" IPA. Dublin 1985.*

*It was not until 1975, when the Dalkey School Project began that a realistic alternative to denominational education took shape. The continuing tragedy of Northern Ireland and the emergence of a more active role for parents in schooling played an important part in this new departure.*

*The NDNSP National School, like the two project schools which preceded it, is a national school in every sense. It is subject to the Department of Education rules for National Schools governing the curriculum, class sizes, teacher appointments, training and recruitment etc. The basic difference between it and national schools in the denominational sector is that patronage is vested in NDNSP Patron Body/Association itself and not, as is usual, in a local bishop. There are other important distinctions which are explained in this information pack. In 1984 NDNSP co-founded with Dalkey School Project and Bray School Project the umbrella organisation Educate Together (ET)*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **HISTORY OF NORTH DUBLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT**

*The NDNSP evolved from a wish by parents on Dublin's northside to send their children to a school in which children of both sexes, of all religions and none, would be educated together.*

*After a series of meetings, an ad hoc Steering Committee was formed and a public meeting was held in November 1981. An inaugural general meeting followed in February 1982 and a Patron Committee was elected. The NDNSP was incorporated in the Companies Office, as a non-profit, charitable-purpose, Company limited by Guarantee on 16th June 1983. In effect, the NDNSP was formally inaugurated as an association, bound by a written constitution. Membership is open to all who subscribe to its aims.*

*The Patron Committee then negotiated with the Department of Education for recognition as Patron of a National School, and specifically to open a school in accordance with the stated aims of NDNSP.*

*In 1982, the NDNSP applied to the Office of Public Works to use the Model School building (which was then about to become vacant) in Glasnevin as temporary premises for a school.*

*In 1983, a five year lease was signed and approval given to carry out renovations to the building and site. The NDNSP Patron Body/Association, having met all the requirements of the Department of Education, was formally recognised by the Department, as a patron body suitable to establish a national school.*

*The school opened on 3rd September 1984 with three teachers and 92 pupils. A fourth teacher was appointed in October 1984. Two additional teachers took up office in September 1985, the school having grown to 190 pupils. For 2015 we will have 8 class teachers, 1 Principal and two Learning Support/ Resource teachers.*

*In April 2002 the school moved to new premises at Ballymun Road.*

*There are 142 families in the school. Membership of the Patron Body (couples/individuals) now stands at 350.*

*In September 2014 there were 229 pupils with a waiting list of over 304 for Junior Infants.*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**EDUCATE TOGETHER**

*NDNSP drew largely on the experience of the two school projects which preceded it, namely the Dalkey School Project and the Bray School Project. In 1983, a co-ordinating committee of the three School Projects was formed.*

*Known as Educate Together, it was formally constituted in 1984. One member of the Board of Management and one member of the Patron Committee of each Project met on a regular basis to exchange information and offer practical assistance and support, not only to each other, but also to new school projects.*

*The organisation drew up and published the Educate Together Charter in 1990. This document is the statement of principles to which all Educate Together organisations subscribe.*

*Educate Together transformed itself into a company limited by guarantee in 1998 and is now a recognised charity. It is the representative organisation of the Educate Together Schools and Associations throughout the Republic of Ireland. There are currently 74 schools in the Republic (one of which is a Gaelscoil) . The National Office of Educate Together addresses the national policy objectives of the sector in negotiations with the Department of Education and Skills and other national organisations and provides specific services to member schools. Its national officers are elected annually from the school communities and work in a voluntary capacity. Educate together receives some Government assistance but is dependent primarily on charitable funding. 2002 was a landmark year for the sector. ET secured funding to develop the national office over a three year period which enabled them to appoint additional permanent staff .*

*The offices of Educate Together are at:  
11 Hogan Place  
Dublin 2.  
Phone: 01 4292500    FAX 01 4292502  
Email: [info@educatetogether.ie](mailto:info@educatetogether.ie)  
URL <http://www.educatetogether.ie>*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **AIMS & PRINCIPLES OF NDNSP PATRON BODY.**

*The aim of the NDNSP is to establish a national school which is*

*- multi-denominational;*

- co-educational;
- child-centered;
- democratic,

and which is run in accordance with the “Rules for National Schools” set down by the Department of Education.

These four features are understood as follows:-

**Multi-denominational** All children have equal rights of access to the school. The social, cultural and/or religious background of each child is equally respected.

**Co-educational** Apart from simply meaning that the school is open to boys and girls, the NDNSP is committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of interests and opportunities without distinction by sex.

**Child-centered** Child centred learning (which is now incorporated as a principle in the new curriculum of National Schools) makes the child the focus of the educational system.

**Democratic** There are two official bodies involved in the management of the school. These are:-

1. NDNSP Patron Body, which through its annually elected Patron Committee functions as Patron, as outlined in the Education Act and the Rules for National Schools. The Patron Committee is responsible for overall planning, control and development of the school or any school set up by the NDNSP Patron Body.
2. The Board of Management is responsible for the school’s direct management. Management is governed by a framework laid down by the Department of Education and Science Rules for National Schools.

The Patron Committee nominates two Patron representatives and appoints the Chairperson of the Board of Management who is one of the eight members of the Board of Management.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **PATRON BODY AGM**

*The annual general meeting (AGM) is held each year within 15 months of the preceding AGM on or after 30th April. All other general meetings are called Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM)*

**Extraordinary General (EGM) meetings can be called;**

- 1. By the Patron Committee at any time it thinks fit;*
- 2. If 10% of ordinary members request it;*
- 3. If there are insufficient members of the Patron Committee in the State to form quorum (5), any single member of the Patron Committee or any two members of NDNSP Patron Body can call an EGM.*

*An EGM is called to deal with a specific item of business and no other business can be dealt with at the EGM.*

**SIZE OF SCHOOL**

*It is the policy of NDNSP Patron Body to maintain an eight-class single stream school, plus an administrative principal and any resource/remedial staff we may be entitled to. Double classes (i.e. two junior infant classes in one school year) are not, at present, under consideration. Currently we have eight class teachers a Learning Support teacher and part-time Learning Support/Special Needs support hours.*

*It was always our belief that, having demonstrated the feasibility and viability of one eight-class school in or near Glasnevin, other schools could and should be established in North Dublin. There are now 30 schools in the greater Dublin area.*

**STRUCTURE OF THE NDNSP.**

*The NDNSP began as an association of members bound by a written constitution. One of the requirements of the Department of Education and Skills for recognition as patron is that a secure structure with legal and statutory recognition be formed. The NDNSP Patron Body is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is a limited company which does not issue shares or pay dividends. When the NDNSP Patron Body registered as a company in June 1982, the NDNSP constitution was incorporated into the Memorandum and Articles of Association.*

*Copies of these are available on request from:  
The NDNSP Patron Committee/the School Office or:  
The Companies Registration Office,  
18, Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1.*

*Phone : 01 - 804 5200*

*At the same time, the then Department of Trade, Commerce and Tourism gave a licence permitting NDNSP Patron Body to dispense with the need to add the word "Ltd." to our title in common usage. This is often permitted for non-profit making bodies. This was done to highlight the non-profit making nature of NDNSP and to avoid any confusion that might arise. The basic effect of the incorporation of NDNSP Patron Body in this form is that, in the strict sense,*

- every paid up member of NDNSP Patron Body is a shareholder in the company;
- The Patron Committee is the board of Directors;
- The Chairperson is the Managing Director.

*In the event of the NDNSP, as a company, being wound up with outstanding debts, the liability of each member is limited to "no more than fifty pence"*

*The procedures governing NDNSP, as a company, are laid down in the Companies Acts 1963-1999.*

## **NDNSP AS PATRON**

### **THE PATRON'S ROLE**

*The Patron, together with the Department of Education and Skills and the Board of Management, has a shared responsibility for the quality of education in the school. The Patron is specifically responsible for drawing up the ethos statement of the school and ensuring that the school runs in accordance with this ethos. While traditionally the responsibility for the educational philosophy of the school rested with the Patron, in practice this responsibility is shared with the Board of Management. The Board of Management manages the school on behalf of the Patron in accordance with the Department of Education and Skills's Rules for National Schools. The Patron retains ultimate responsibility for the school ethos, the direct appointment of two members of the Board of Management and approving of the selection of the other members, the selecting of the Chairperson of the Board of Management, supporting the Board of Management, relevant financial and legal matters, the upkeep of assets and the approval of all staff appointment in accordance with Department of Education and Skills regulations. The Patron Body retains the main responsibility for decisions regarding the future of the school and may also decide to open or facilitate the opening of other schools under its patronage.*

- \* ***as a Parent you are not automatically a member of the NDNSP Patron Body***
- \* ***By becoming a member you have a voice in all the Patron Body's decisions affecting your child/ren***

### **Membership of the Patron Body**

*By becoming a member of the NDNSP Patron Body you will be endorsing the aims of the school.* You will be eligible to attend, speak and vote at the A.G.M. of the Patron Body. You will be eligible to be elected to the school's Patron Committee. The amount of the subscription is decided by the Patron Committee and is payable on joining NDNSP Patron Body and on the 1st of January in each subsequent year.

*Membership is open to all who support the aims of the NDNSP Patron Body and who Pay an annual subscription. Membership forms are available from:*

*Membership Secretary  
NDNSP Patron Committee,  
Ballymun Road,  
Dublin 9.*

*Following a motion at last year's AGM it has been agreed that if present members of the Patron Body who are parents/staff have paid €20 between last year and this they will automatically become paid up members for the duration of the time that their child/children are school pupils, and for the duration of time as staff member.*

*Membership for non parents/staff costs € 10 (couple), € 5 (individual), € 2 (concession). Fees can be paid by standing order annually on 1st January. People wishing to exercise their vote at an A.G.M. must be signed up members by 30th March of that year and six weeks before an Extraordinary General Meeting. The application form for membership is enclosed. Membership now stands at 350.*

## **PATRON COMMITTEE**

*The NDNSP Patron Body elects its Patron Committee at the Annual General Meeting. Members elected to the Patron Committee hold office for a period of two years, with half its members changing each year.*

*The officers of the Patron Committee are:*

*- Chairperson;*

- Secretary;
- Treasurer.

The Patron Committee may co-opt additional members up to the permitted maximum number of 11. These elected members include the Chairperson of the Board of Management as an ex-officio member of the NDNSP Patron Committee who remains on the Patron Committee for the entire term that they are chairperson of the Board of Management.

The remaining members of the Patron Committee who have served a 2 year term retire each year, but members may be re-elected.

The Patron Committee regulates its own meetings. Issues are decided by majority vote where necessary and the Chairperson has an extra casting vote in the event of a tie. Three members of the Patron Committee may request the Secretary to call a meeting of the Committee. The quorum of the Patron Committee is five.

The Patron Committee may continue to act if vacancies arise. It may also co-opt to fill such vacancies. If the number of Patron committee members falls below the quorum (i.e. the number of members in attendance which is required for a vote) and Extraordinary General Meeting must be called.

Minutes are kept of the following:-

1. All appointments to the Patron Committee including officers of NDNSP.
2. Names of members present at Patron Committee meetings.
3. All resolutions/proceedings of meetings.

The procedure for disqualification from the Patron Committee is set down in the Articles of Association and in accordance with the Companies Acts.

Further Information:

The Secretary,  
NDNSP,  
Ballymun Road,  
Dublin 9

OR

The Companies Registration Office,  
18, Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1.  
Phone 01 - 804 5200

## **MANAGING THE SCHOOL**

### **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The Patron is responsible for initiating the steps necessary for the establishment of a national school's Board of Management.

The Patron Committee on behalf of the the NDNSP Patron Body arranges for the election of the Board of Management. The board holds office for four years.

For a school our current size the Board consists of:-

1. Two people who are members of the NDNSP appointed by and representing the Patron.
2. Two parents of children enrolled in the school, one of whom must be a mother and one of whom must be a father.
3. The School Principal or acting Principal of the school.
4. A teachers' representative.
5. Two Community representatives proposed by the above 6 Board of Management members and unanimously agreed by them.

The Patron appoints one of the 8 above people to be Chairperson.

### **Election Procedures for parents Representatives.**

The Board of Management on behalf of the Patron arranges for meetings of parents to elect their own parents' representatives to the Board. At least ten days written notice of such meetings must be given to each person entitled to vote at such meetings i.e. all parents.

Voting for the parents' representatives is by secret ballot. Parents must be notified of the result and the Patron Committee may also retain the voting returns for the purpose of co-option to fill any vacancies occurring during the life of the Board.

### **Recognition of the Board of Management.**

The Minister recognises the board as manager of the school, if the procedure outline above is complied with.

The Board's first meeting must be held within one month of the date of recognition by the Minister.

**It is the duty of the Board of Management to manage the school on behalf of the Patron and for the benefit of the students - providing for the appropriate education of the children in its care and in accordance with the Rules for National Schools, and relevant legislation including the Education for persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004, Equal Status Act 1998/2004, Education and Welfare Act 2000, Employment Equality Act 1998/2004, the Education Act 1998 and current Health and Safety/ Child Protection Legislation and Guidelines.**

*Below is a synopsis of the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Management according to the Education Acts. Copies of the full Acts are available in the office, as are Department circulars, school policy documents etc..*

- \* uphold and be accountable to the Patron for upholding the ethos of the school.*
- \* consult with and keep the Patron informed of relevant decisions of the Board.*
- \* Determine policies which the Principal then enacts. The Principal is accountable to the Board for the day to day running of the school.*
- \* Specifically publish the school's policies regarding: admission to and participation in the school, the Code of Behaviour, Discipline and Conduct, Anti-Bullying and Child Protection Policies, admission and participation of children with special educational needs with due regard to the principles of equality and the right of parents to send their child to a school of the parents' choice.*
- \* have regard to the principles of democracy*
- \* have and promote respect for the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.*
- \* use resources and monies provided by the State for their specified purpose.*
- \* keep full accounts and records of monies received which must be annually audited and available for inspection.*

***In addition the Board of Management has specific responsibilities in relation to children, parents and staff.***

*In fulfilling these responsibilities the Board of Management of the NDNSP*

- \* encourages and facilitates the appropriate involvement of students in the operation of the school. This is in line with the child centred nature of the school.*
- \* encourages, welcomes and supports the active involvement of parents in the education of their children and in the*

*achievement of the objectives of the school. This is in line with the democratic ethos of the school.*

- \* keeps parents, children and teachers informed by sending home a handbook, an annual calendar, regular information notes, letters and holds parents' and teachers' meetings.*
- \* ensures the preparation and regular review and updating of a school plan.*
- \* circulates relevant policies in the handbook and ensures that the full School Plan and policies are available in the office.*
- \* appoints the Principal, teachers and other staff members in accordance with agreed procedures.*

*The Chairperson chairs and organises each meeting. He/She will generally be nominated to act as a spokesperson in school matters and will be on the selection panel for new teachers.*

*In addition, the Chairperson:*

- has a casting vote in case of ties at meetings;*
- may not start a meeting without a quorum of five members being present;*
- shall be an assessor in connection with the appointment of any permanent teachers for the school;*

- *may authorise the appointment of substitute teachers but should inform the Board at its next meeting*
- *must inform the Patron of a resignation, death or non-eligibility of a member on the Board, so that a replacement can be elected or co-opted;*
- *may grant leave of absence to a teacher where the Board has previously authorised the chairperson to do so.*

*A Secretary is elected from among its members.*

*The secretary keeps minutes of each meeting in an appropriate form. These are to be kept by the Secretary so that they can be made available on request to representatives of the Patron and the Department of Education and Skills. (For convenience, the present Board also has a Correspondence Secretary)*

*A Treasurer is elected from amongst its members.*

*The Treasurer keeps the school accounts which they shall have audited annually. They shall maintain proper records for accounting purposes and these shall be open to inspection. All cheques must be signed by two designated members of the Board of Management.*

*The Board of Management of the NDNSP meets 10 - 11 times each year. The election of parents to the new Board of Management will take place in October 2015.*

## **PARENTS**

### **PARENT - TEACHER-GUARDIAN ASSOCIATION (PTGA)**

#### **History**

*In November 1984, a PTGA was formed, following a short study of similar bodies in other comparable schools. Elections for the first committee were held in December 1984. This committee drafted a constitution outlining the PTGA aims, functions and rules. This draft constitution is available from the PTGA Chairperson.*

#### **Aims**

*The draft constitution states:-*

*“The aim of the Association is to promote the development of the School, and in particular by:*

- A. *providing opportunities for parents and teachers to meet and discuss matters of general interest;*
- B. *encouraging and organising practical assistance to the school;*
- C. *fund-raising in whatever ways and for whatever purposes as shall be decided on by members of the Association.*
- D. *providing a means of keeping members informed about the progress of the school and about current events and future plans affecting the school”*

*As there is a lot happening in a school like ours, the PTGA will keep parents informed. For example, this handbook was suggested at a PTGA meeting. The PTGA will also provide parents with a regular forum to express their views on events and policies in the school, thereby allowing them to influence the running of the school.*

*Extracurricular activities can be proposed and organised by the PTGA. For example the PTGA have organised Arts Weeks, Sports Week, Science & Technology Weeks, a Treasure Hunt, Junior Infant outings/playdates over the Summer, talks etc. The contact people for the PTGA are listed below.*

<i>Pauline Sweeney</i>	<i>Chairperson</i>
<i>Doireann Sheridan</i>	<i>Teachers’ Representative</i>
<i>Jenny Doyle</i>	<i>BOM Representative</i>
<i>Fiona Doherty</i>	<i>Patron Representative</i>
<i>Jean Dunne</i>	<i>Patron Representative</i>

*Laura Behan, Niamh O’Donnell, Catherine Dempsey, Aufrey Dawson, Olivia Morahan, Lisa Hall, Jennifer Morgan*

*The new PTGA Committee will be elected in October 2015 at their annual meeting.*

## **SCHOOL MATTERS**

### **CURRICULUM**

*The NDNSP is a national school and as such, is supported by the State. Thus it works within a curriculum laid down by the Department of Education and Skills. Classroom work, attendance records, teaching practices and school accounts are subject to inspection by the Department in order to ensure that basic common standards are applied for all schools.*

*The aims of primary education are briefly stated in the “Primary School Curriculum, Teachers’ Handbook” as being;*

1. *To enable the child to live a full life as a child;*
2. *To equip him/her to avail of further education so that they may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.*

*In order that the first of these aims may be achieved, two relevant factors must be taken into account, namely:-*

- A. All children are complex human beings with physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs and potentialities.*
- B. Because each child is an individual, she/he deserves to be valued for themselves and to be provided with a variety of opportunities towards stimulation and fulfilment which will enable them to develop their natural potential at their own rate to their fullest capacity.*

*The traditional method of dealing with the curriculum was to*

- divide it into compartments which were called subjects;*
- allot fixed periods of time during the day to the teaching of each subject;*
- attempt, when the opportunity arose, to integrate some of those subjects.*

*Now the child is seen to be the most active agent in his/her education. The teacher is no longer regarded as one who merely imparts information, but rather as the person who provides suitable learning situations and who guides/stimulates the child in their pursuit of knowledge.*

*The curriculum is now seen as an integrated entity which involves linguistic, mathematical and artistic organisation of the child's knowledge and experience. For convenience, its various aspects are arranged under the following headings:-*

- 1. Language - Irish and English*
- 2. Mathematics*
- 3. Religious Education Core Curriculum*
- 4. Social, Environmental and Scientific Education*
- 5. Arts Education - Visual, Music, Drama*
- 6. Social, Personal and Health Education.*
- 7. Physical education*

*The School Principal, together with the teaching staff, organises the details of the curriculum in the school, within the guidelines of the Department of Education and Skills.*

*As a multi-denominational school, the NDNSP follows a core religious and ethical education curriculum which has been specially devised by multi-denominational schools for their own use. This core curriculum covers such basic beliefs as honesty, courtesy, integrity, respect for others and the fact that certain types of behaviour are antisocial e.g. vandalism, bullying, littering etc. As children grow older, they will learn about the special feast-day celebrations of various churches. They will also celebrate together any special occasions which any member of their class might be involved in as part of their own religious practice. They will study many different religious beliefs, both as beliefs and within their historical context.*

*The Core curriculum does not presuppose the belief in a God. We believe that this is between parent and child.*

*Parents retain the right to*

- *exclude their children from all religious education;*
- *organise denominational instruction*

*NDNSP has given an undertaking to the Department of Education and Skills to facilitate parents who wish to provide specific denominational instruction for their children.*

*Further Information.*

1. *The School Principal or any of the class teachers are available at all times to answer any question relating to teaching and allied matters.*
2. *The Revised Primary School Curriculum books are available from*

*Government Publications Office,  
Molesworth Street,  
Dublin 2.  
or  
from local libraries.*

## **SCHOOL MATTERS**

### **TIMETABLE AND OTHER INFORMATION**

*The school gate opens for children at 8.30am. Until this time they are the responsibility of their parents. All classes start at 08.40a.m. sharp. It is essential that children are in as early as possible. Junior and Senior Infants finish school daily at 13.10p.m. All other classes finish at 14.10pm.*

#### **Lunch Breaks**

*There are breaks during the school day for recreation and lunch. First break is 10.30am - 10.40am, second break is 12.00pm - 12.30pm. Children who have to leave early (e.g. to visit hospital) should do so at break times, if possible, so as to minimise disruption to class teaching.*

*Milk is provided free by Dublin City Council to all children who want it.*

#### **Holidays**

*These are agreed at a meeting of teachers. They do not necessarily coincide with holidays associated with any religious or other group. The school is not open on state public holidays (i.e. bank holidays). School reopens on Tuesday 1st September*

*. The holidays for 2015 -2016 school year: 26th - 30th October, 23rd December to 5th January inclusive, 18th & 19th February, 17th March - 3rd April, 2nd - 6th May.*

### *Circulars*

*Most letters/circulars are sent out in the children's schoolbags, so it is essential to check these regularly.*

### *Rules*

*There are very few rules, as such, in the school. However, we expect a high standard of courtesy from all children, parents and NDNSP members, both in terms of the language they use and in the way they behave.*

*The NDNSP does not permit chewing gum, sweets, chocolate, nuts, or minerals in school, even at breaks. If children have any of these, they will be removed unless a parent writes specifically requesting permission for such foods. Please see the Code of Discipline for the school.*

### *Keeping in touch.*

*If a parent has any worry, no matter how small it might appear to them, they should directly approach the class teacher about it. He or she will advise who is the best person to deal with the problem.*

### *Ruth Donald, our Principal writes:-*

*"It is essential to the working of a school that such contact is regularly maintained, or else communication channels will break down. Remember, a small worry can be easily dealt with, but if it is allowed to grow it may develop into a really big problem. The staff cannot always know what is going on, and it is dangerous to assume that because you know, or have noticed something, they will too".*

### *Classroom Work*

*Although the classroom work and discipline is the responsibility of the class teacher, help is always welcome. If you have any skill, talent or interest which you would be generous enough to share with our children, you should get in touch with the teachers.*

*The whole spirit of the school depends on such help and co-operation, even if your offer focuses on only one or two individual pupils. This can be as helpful as any activity with a full class. Of course, the more friends you can rope in the better.*

*Parents regularly assist in many ways. These include soccer, cooking, crafts, art, drama, music, computer studies, outings, school tours, and project work. The school always welcomes support from people who can arrange events like a trip to a factory or workplace, bird-watching and so on.*

## *FINANCE AND BUILDINGS*

### *DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING*

*The NDNSP is a national school, and as such is funded in the same way and to the same extent as any other mainstream school within the state system. The Department of Education and Skills pays the teachers' salaries directly and in full. It gives a a capitation grant for each pupil, based on the numbers on the school roll on the 30th September of the current year. This grant is paid in two instalments (January and June). During 2013/2014, this capitation grant is €170 per pupil. The Department of Education and Skills will decide the grant for 2015/2016 school year in January 2016.*

*In total, it has been estimated that the capitation grant meets about half a national school's running costs. The balance must be raised annually by the school itself.*

*It is the responsibility of the Patron to find and make provision for a new school, who must also pay a percentage of school building and equipment costs.*

*Day-to-day costs are the responsibility of the Board of Management. It must meet these from the capitation grant and fund-raising. The Rules state what the capitation grant may be spent on. This includes teaching materials, light/heat/power, water and cleaning/maintenance of school premises (including periodic internal and external painting). The Board arranges with the Principal for the allocation of funds for buying*

*school materials and equipment, and must budget in such a way as to meet its commitments. It is not allowed to exceed its income, or to incur debts or overdrafts.*

*The national school system is, in effect, a privately-run state assisted system. Strictly speaking, it is free to all pupils as it is funded by the Exchequer. The school is not allowed (under the Rules of the Department of Education and Skills) to raise money from parents by means of a fee.*

*However, since the amount granted to schools by the Department of Education and Skills is insufficient to meet all running costs, the Board of Management is responsible for ensuring that the balance required is raised through fundraising. The Board of Management is responsible for the preparation of an account of its income and expenditure at the end of each school year. These accounts are retained by the school and presented to members of the Board. The accounts are also available for audit by the Department.*

*NDNSP is delighted to be able to offer a high spec built environment to the school community since its move to new premises in April 2002. Nevertheless, substantial fundraising continues to be a necessity.*

- \* Voluntary Donations Day (anonymous)*
- \* Tax Efficient giving*
- \* Corporate Tax Efficient donations*
- \* Winter Bazaar*
- \* Other events eg. Art sale*

*NORTH DUBLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT*

*N.D.N.S.P.*

*HOW PARENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT  
PARTICIPATE IN THE RUNNING OF THE SCHOOL.*

*GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
OF N.D.N.S.P.*

*PARENTS*

*PAY ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTION*

*ENCOURAGED TO BE  
MEMBERS OF N.D.N.S.P.  
BUT NOT OBLIGED TO BE*

*PATRON COMMITTEE  
(PATRON OF N.D.N.S.P)*

*BOARD OF MANAGEMENT*

*PARENT / TEACHER  
ASSOCIATION*

## NORTH DUBLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT

### WHO CAN JOIN?

*Anyone who supports the ideals of multi-denominational education can become a member of the N.D.N.S.P. The N.D.N.S.P. is a company and is the "Patron" of the school; in a denominational school the "Patron" is the Bishop. Payment of an annual subscription entitles you to membership of the company and at the Annual General Meeting all paid up members of the company elect an Executive.*

#### *PATRON COMMITTEE*

*The Patron Committee is similar to a Board of Directors. Composed of 11 people elected by the members, i.e. The "Patron", it is responsible for the overall management of the school and for ensuring that the multi-denominational ethos is maintained and developed.*

#### *BOARD OF MANAGEMENT*

*The Board of Management is responsible for the day to day running of the school and consists of 8 people including the School Principal and representatives of parents, teaching staff and the Executive.*

#### *DEMOCRATIC AND MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL*

*The school is run according to democratic principles with the parents and members having a right to participate. As a multi-denominational school it is part of a growing movement for integrated education co-ordinated by the umbrella organisation EDUCATE TOGETHER.*