



# The National Parents Council Post Primary

Cordially invites

**All** Parents of Pupils attending Post Primary Schools to attend the National Parents' Council Post Primary Annual Conference 2011  
'The Three Step Challenge' – An Initiative for Parents

14th – 15th October 2011, Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath

This year for the very first time the National Parents' Council Post Primary member organisations (**COMPASS + CSPA + FEDCBS + NPAVSCC + PACCS = NPCpp**) have come together to host a joint conference for all parents of students in second level schools.

The conference promises to be informative, interesting and will cover a broad range of topics that affect your teenager's years in second level and on to third level. Our keynote speaker is Senator Ronan Mullen who will speak on all aspects of parental involvement in school life. There will be workshops on bullying, study skills, choice of study paths and on the many challenges pupils face. We will have representatives from various different organisations such as Frances Shearer National Co-ordinator, RSE. Support Service, Department of Education and Skills who will speak on the new Child Protection Guidelines, and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) will give a presentation on future developments within the education system. Dr. Amanda Fitzgerald Postdoctoral Researcher in the Youth Mental Health School of Psychology and Dr. Barbara Dooley, PhD Senior Lecturer School of Psychology at University College Dublin in conjunction with Headstrong will present the findings of the first national study of youth mental health in Ireland. The conference will be opened on Friday evening by the Minister for Education and Skills Mr. Ruairí Quinn. He will address issues relevant to parents in the current economic climate. Another first to Ireland and NPCpp is the European Parents' Association (EPA) President Mr. Johannes Theiner who will speak on European schools and general aspects of European parents' participation in schools. MOVING UP, a new illustrated book for parents of children transferring to second-level schools will be officially launched at the Conference. The book's author is John Stevenson, a former Principal and the book has been endorsed and supported by the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and National Parents' Council Post-Primary.

The National Parents' Council Post Primary extends an invitation to **all** parents who have children in second level. We feel that in attending the conference, parents will benefit in many different ways from the information gleaned over the weekend. It is a forum for gathering information but also for sharing. We would encourage you and other parents of children at second level to join us for this weekend.

## Saturday Package A

Conference  
2x Tea/Coffee and Scones  
Lunch

**€22.50 per person**  
including conference material

## Saturday Package B

Conference,  
2x Tea/Coffee and Scones  
Lunch,  
Gala Dinner  
1 B&B

**€149 per person**  
including conference material

## Friday/Saturday Package C

Conference,  
2x Tea/Coffee and Scones  
Lunch,  
Dinner (Fri)  
Gala Dinner  
2 B&B

**€199 per person**  
including conference material

To register or for further information please contact Sandra at 01 8302740 or email [sandraboylan@npcpp.ie](mailto:sandraboylan@npcpp.ie) or checkout our website at [www.npcpp.ie](http://www.npcpp.ie).

# NPCpp Conference Agenda 2011

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011

6.30pm	7.15pm	Registration, Tea & Coffee, Finger Food
7.15pm	8pm	Open of Conference 2011 by Minister for Education & Skills Mr. Ruairi Quinn
8pm	8.30pm	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) Presentation
8.30		Dinner

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011

9am	9.45am	Registration, Tea & Coffee
9.45am	9.55am	Open of Conference by Vice President of NPCpp Mr. David Hegarty.
9.55am	10.15am	Frances Shearer, National Co-ordinator, RSE. Support Service – New Child Protection Guidelines
10.15am	10.35am	Launch of “Moving Up” From Primary to Secondary A Parents’ Roadmap – a new book to assist parents in their teenagers move from primary to second level.
10.35am	10.50am	Tea / Coffee
11am	11.30am	Keynote Address: Senator Ronan Mullen - will speak on Parent involvement in school life, attendance, codes of behaviour, transition from primary to post primary and on to third level
11.30	12pm	European Parents’ Association (EPA) President Mr. Johannes Theiner will speak on assessment, evaluation, school quality and rankings in European schools and general aspects of European parents' participation in schools
12.am	1pm	Workshops: Monica Monahan M.Ed Aggression Studies - Trinity College, will host workshops on the problem of, and how to tackle bullying in our schools.  Eileen Keary will host workshops on Study Skills for your teenagers  Catherine O'Connor MA (Ed) Education Consultant will host workshops on your teenager’s choice of study paths and the many challenges facing them within the second and third level education systems.
1pm	2pm	Lunch
2pm	3pm	Repeat of Workshops
3pm	3.20pm	Dr Amanda Fitzgerald and Dr. Barbara Dooley of University College Dublin present findings of the first national study on youth mental health.
3.20pm	4pm	Reports of workshops followed by Q&A to workshop presenters
4pm		Close of Conference by President of NPCpp, Mr. Tommy Walshe
8pm		Gala Dinner

***NPCpp – Working towards a better education system for all***