

Southern regional News

Post Primary Education Forum Survey.

Results of the survey undertaken in 2nd level schools in Education Minister, Batt O'Keeffe's constituency of Cork North West. The survey was conducted by the Cork County Committee of the Post- Primary Education Forum. The Forum represents the National Parent Council, School Managements Bodies and Teacher Trade Unions.

No. of Schools: 15 Schools Combined

Enrolment: 5706 Students Teachers

Lost: 26.5 teachers lost.

Subjects at risk:

(The number denotes the number of schools)

Music (1), German (2), Physics (4), Art (1),
Senior Geography (1), Chemistry (2), P.E. (1), Accounting (1),
Design & Communication Graphics (1), Science (1), R.E. (1)

Subjects that will be lost:

Accounting (1), Senior Art (3), German (1), Chemistry (2), Physics (3),
Music (1), Tech. Graphics (1), Technology (1).

Programmes at risk: - Transition Year (6), L.C.A. (1)

Total Programme Grant Aid withdrawn: €137,000.

Impact of Substitution & Supervision changes.

- 1) No capacity to facilitate games (10 schools). Very limited capacity to provide for games (5 schools).
- 2) Capacity to provide for other curricular field trips. No capacity - (9 schools). Limited provision - (6 schools).
- 3) Capacity to provide for other co-curricular activities and outings. No capacity - (11 schools). Limited capacity - (4 schools).
- 4) Impact of teachers absent on school business or because of uncertified leave.

The impact will be very serious as much of the Supervision & Substitution allocation is used in supervision at break-times. In small rural schools buses arrive early and depart late thereby absorbing much of the supervision time. Uncertified leave must take precedence over any planned activity. When Supervision & Substitution time is unavailable students may have to be collected.
The Supervision &

Substitution cut-back may result in Principal & Deputy Principal being unavailable for important leadership and management roles.

Financial impact to families:

The direct financial impact on families averages €300 per student.

Random comments from survey.

- The grants have been withdrawn from traveller students. Our Home School Liaison teacher is withdrawn.
- A major cut in staffing cannot be absorbed in one year.
- The situation in schools will be more extreme if curricular concessions are tightened.
- In some second level sectors they will be expected to absorb the impact in one school year.
- In an age when we should be broadening the experience of our students we are now narrowing it.
- The proposed cuts will have a devastating impact on the quality of school life.
- Subject options will be reduced. Some of the most significant subjects will be dropped.
- Schools may not be able to provide for the 28-hour minimum tuition requirement.
- Extra-curricular activities and other educationally valuable initiatives will not survive.
- The skills and expertise of many teachers of special education need's students will be lost to many schools.
- Because of the non-implementation of the EPSEN act no progress will be made in making further provision for students with special educational needs.
- We will no longer be able to support the volunteerism in schools, which is the life-blood of personal development programmes. In one fell swoop the lights have been switched off on the most unique and wonderful aspect of students experience in Irish schools.

Post-Primary Education Forum

J.M.B.

N.P.C.P.P.

A.S.T.I.

T.U.I.

Aces.

I.V.E.A.

A meeting of the southern region was held on the 30th of September in Castletownbere Community School,

in attendance were rep's from the following schools, Bishopstown, Ballincollig, Castletownbere, Kenmare & Millstreet.

Some schools haven't yet had their A.G.M.s & those that have, the attendances have been small.

Ballincollig C.S. have set up a Walking Club & will walk for Charity during the year.

On Oct 16th the school will host the 1st year's welcome ceremony.

Castletownbere C.S. **P.A.** have purchased a Water Feature for the school.

Kenmare C.S. 1st years being mentored by 6th years. A number of students from the school have attended the Young Entrepreneur held in Tralee.

Millstreet C.S. **P.A.** have purchased a Defibrillator for the school.

Bishopstown C.S. will have their A.G.M. soon.

A number of schools in the Southern Region seem to have left P.A.C.C.S. it was decided following discussion that the rep's from each school contact a C.S. close to their area inviting them to re-join the organization.

Our next regional meeting will be held at **Bishopstown Community School** on the 21st of October, We hope to have Frank Mulvihill (past president of guidance councilors) Speaking at that meeting, He plans to give a 20 min presentation followed by question time. All interested parents are invited to attend.

Our last regional meeting was held at Bishopstown Community School, The attendances were 5 schools from the region represented " Bishopstown, Ballincollig, Youghal, Kenmare, and Millstreet.

We were joined at the meeting by Jill who works for O2 in corporate affairs or P.R. She spoke about O2 and child protection on mobile phones, Policy on children and O2 products, initiatives and service which will enable such protection,

The discussion went on to parents experiences of the mobile phone among young people today and the biggest issues that they have come across to date.

Parents may not be aware that they can register as an authorised contact on their childs mobile phone.

It was suggested that all SIM Cards should be registered at point of sale and not sold without the relivant I.D.

This could reduce the amount of illegal use, The importance of traceability of SIM Cards at all times,

I was an interesting talk and discussion and it cetrainly opened up the debate on mobile phones and young children and the responsibility of parents and lack of responsibility in some cases.