



National Association of COMPASS

Co-operation of Minority Religions & Protestant Parent Associations (Post Primary)

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Dear Chairperson/Compass Representative,

Coronavirus

I just wanted to take a brief moment to write to you at this time when we are facing such unprecedented challenge and uncertainty. I am more than conscious of the work of our various parents organisations is not an immediate priority as we address concerns for the health and well-being of our families, friends and those most vulnerable to us let alone the likely economic impact all this is likely to have. However, Thursday's announcement of the cancellation of the Oral and Practical assessments was a further example of the reach and consequences the pandemic is having. In this regard I just wanted to draw your attention to some additional sources of information which I hope you could share with your parents.

First and foremost I am sure that we are all deeply grateful for the work and support being provided by our school leadership and the teachers who have been so quick to adapt and find solutions to support our students. The up-dates being provided by our schools is, of course, one of the most reliable sources of information along with the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

Secondly the National Parents Council post primary website - <https://www.npcpp.ie/>. Apart from the general information and up-dates they provide there are three services they are offering that I would like to draw your attention:

- i. Their general phone number - [01 862 3346](tel:018623346) – is there to provide assistance or additional information parents might require. NPCpp does not have prior access to any announcements that the Department makes but it is an organisation working to address and advocate concerns of parents.
- ii. On the website the latest developments relating to this pandemic are outlined and there is information that might be useful to parents such as advice on Studying from Home and Planning (<https://www.npcpp.ie/study-from-home-planning/>) and Study from Home Resources (<https://www.npcpp.ie/study-from-home-resources/>)
- iii. NPCpp keeps its website up-dated daily.

You can also get up-dates from NPCpp via twitter - the account is @NPCpp.

I would mention that we work to keep our own website - <https://compassparents.org/posts> also updated regularly.

Thirdly I would mention that all COMPASS activities, including our AGM initially planned for the end of April, are postponed until further notice.

Finally on behalf of the COMPASS Executive I wish to convey our most sincere best wishes to you over the coming months and to remind you that both ourselves and NPCpp stand ready to advocate for you and your students.

Yours faithfully

Patrick Empey
President