

# Press Release

**07th August 2009**

## **Press Release from the Joint Managerial Body re the Decrease in the Number of Teachers in Post-Primary Secondary Schools in 2009/10**

The Joint Managerial Body, representing the management of almost four hundred Voluntary Secondary schools, has expressed dismay at the projected loss in teaching posts in Voluntary Secondary schools for the next school year.

“ Examining the data re the allocation of teachers for 2009/10 school year published on the Department of Education and Science website today has confirmed the worse fears of the JMB that well over one thousand teaching posts will be lost to our schools when one compares the 2009/10 allocation with that of 2008/9” says Ferdia Kelly, General Secretary of the JMB.

“ In Budget 2009 the Pupil Teacher Ratio was increased for all schools but on the basis of a two tier system, 19 to 1 for Free Education Schools and 20 to 1 for fee-charging schools. This means fewer teachers being allocated to schools. In addition the DES has reduced the number of teachers being allocated to schools for language support purposes for newcomer students.” said Ferdia Kelly.

“In reality, fewer teachers means larger classes, a reduced range of subjects, an elimination of programmes such as Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied and higher and ordinary level Leaving Certificate students being taught in the same classroom. You simply cannot remove well over one thousand teachers from our schools without diminishing the quality of the educational experience. The students who are most at risk of leaving school early or struggling in the large classes will suffer most. In other words these cuts will impact on the most vulnerable young people in our society” states Ferdia Kelly.

“ The loss of variety of grants to schools, also announced in Budget 2009, means that schools simply don't have the resources to compensate for these cuts in teacher numbers. Parents already struggling due to the recession cannot afford to continue to fund-raise to compensate for the loss of teachers. Parents themselves are also trying to cope with the elimination of the book grant scheme and the increase of school transport to €300 per pupil per year” says Ferdia Kelly.

**Ferdia Kelly,**

**General Secretary**

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