

Press Release

27th September 2010

Press Release from the Joint Managerial Body re JMB Calls for the Immediate Payment of ICT Grants to Post-Primary Schools.

Ferdia Kelly, General Secretary of the Joint Managerial Body, the management body for Voluntary Secondary schools, calls on the Government to immediately issue ICT grants to post-primary schools.

“The immediate payment of the ICT grants announced in November 2009, as part of the *Smart Schools: Smart Economy Initiative*, is essential if post-primary schools are to meet the challenge of upgrading digital infrastructure in schools and use it as a way to teach ” explains Ferdia Kelly.

“ Post-primary schools were promised €22m to equip every classroom in the country with a computer and digital projector in order to support the roll out of Project Maths to all schools in September this year” states Ferdia Kelly.

“It is a major source of frustration for school management to read about the exciting developments occurring in schools in the areas of ICT and Project Maths, when the reality is that post-primary schools have seen nothing but promises as far as the resourcing of the *Smart Schools: Smart Economy Initiative* is concerned” explains Ferdia Kelly.

Ferdia Kelly believes that unless action is taken immediately “ second level pupils in the Ireland will fall even further behind their international counterparts in accessing digital technology as part of the mainstream education process”.

Principals, teachers, boards of management and parents have shown great determination in raising funds locally to resource IT hardware and software in schools, “ but it’s time for Government to meet us half way in this work and to deliver on its promises”.

Ferdia Kelly believes that “ never was it more critical than at this time of economic recession that we provide our young people with the best possible educational experience. IT is part and parcel of all our lives – it is a tool which helps us to collaborate, share and solve

problems. Our schools must be given the opportunity to equip young people to play a full part in the world”.

“Experts tell us that there are three pillars for the successful integration of technology in schools: a) infrastructure and hardware including broadband, b) getting it into the hands of educators immediately and providing professional development , and c) curriculum-aligned content. The time for empty promises and rhetoric is long gone, school management is already working hard to ensure that pupils are benefitting from a dynamic education system, Government must now play its part and deliver the long promised IT grants immediately,” demands Ferdia Kelly.

Ferdia Kelly,
General Secretary
Joint Managerial Body
Emmet House, Milltown, Dublin 14.
Email: ferdia@secretariat.ie

Phone: 01-2838255. Mobile: 087-2932133