



JOHN SCOTTUS SCHOOL

49 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Tel. 01-660 3788, Fax: 660 7617.

Eoin Ryan, T.D.

Dail Eireann,

Kildare St.

Dublin 2.

Friday, 7 November 1997

c:\jss\recog\er2.doc

Dear Eoin,

John Scottus School was set up in 1986 with 11 pupils. Today, 11 years later it has 165 pupils - 102 in the primary section and 63 in the secondary. It is growing at a very fast rate; 27 new pupils started in September last. There are 12 full time teachers and as many again part-time.

JSS is similar in many ways to most schools but is also different in ethos and culture, different enough to justify its existence alongside existing schools. The unique features of John Scottus are explained in detail in the attached prospectus but in summary they are based on the following 3 statements:

- every child is pure, perfect and complete
- develop each child's individual talents, for the greater good of all
- guide the child to a deeper knowledge of himself/herself.

At present fees have to be charged because we have not received recognition from the Department of Education. We also have to pay rates because we are not recognized. This year we have to fund £88,000 - not for capital projects but just to keep the school going. One of the aspirations of the school is to eliminate fees so that all who wished to send their children to JSS could do so regardless of their financial circumstances.

The main reason given by the Department for not recognizing JSS at the secondary level was that there was no need for another school in the area. But John Scottus is not just 'another school' as the prospectus clearly shows. We have recently submitted an application for the primary section. WE would appreciate any help you could give us on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Conall Clancy



JOHN SCOTTUS SCHOOL

49 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Tel. 01-660 3788, Fax: 660 7617.

Liam Hughes,
Principal Officer,
Planning Section,
Planning and Building Unit,
Department of Education & Science,
Portlaoise Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.

Monday, 5 July 1999

Dear Mr. Hughes,

I refer to your letter of 23 June 1999. On behalf of JSET I am pleased to confirm that we will conform to all the conditions set by the Department as elaborated and clarified in our discussions and previous correspondence and as set out in your letter.

We request that the Department consider granting permanent recognition from the outset in view of the following:

- the school is up and running for twelve years
- there is no issue regarding viability
- a decision on this application was originally promised for September 1998 but was delayed through no fault of John Scottus.

Finally, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for the help you have given us throughout this process.

Yours sincerely,
Conall Clancy

Hughes, Liam

From: OLOINGSIGH, PADRAIG
To: Hughes, Liam
Subject: John Scottus School
Date: 20 July 1999 10:49

Liam.

I agree that recognition is now warranted.

I suggest that initial recognition should be provisional / temporary, to be reviewed at the end of the school year 1999/2000.

Regards.

Padraig.

REPLY FROM: OLOINGSIGH, PADRAIG
Microsoft Mail v3.0 IPM.Microsoft Mail.Note
From: Hughes, Liam
To: OHEIGEARTA, LIAM
OLOINGSIGH, PADRAIG
Subject: John Scottus School
Date: 1999-07-19 17:51
Priority: R
Message ID: 7E905A10
Conversation ID: 7E905A10

Liam, Pádraig,

In response to my letter dated 23 June, 1999, I have received confirmation from the School authorities that they will conform with all the Department's requirements as elaborated and clarified in discussions and correspondence. (The School's letter is dated 5 July, but I only received same today on return from annual leave).

In the circumstances, I am now satisfied that John Scottus School meets the requirements for the granting of recognition as a national school. However, before submitting the matter for approval, I would appreciate if you would indicate:

1. whether you agree that recognition is now warranted; and, if so,
2. whether such recognition should be permanent or provisional.

With regard to 2. above, a recommendation that permanent recognition be granted would be to suggest that we are satisfied in every respect with regard to the future viability and operation of the School. From an administrative perspective, I can say that the School would appear to have a viable future, the accommodation with any necessary structural alterations would be adequate, if not ideal, and a categorical assurance of compliance with our rules and requirements has been obtained.

Are you in a position to say the same with regard to educational aspects?

In that regard, the two benefits of permanent recognition are eligibility for capital grants and school transport. With regard to capital, I do not expect that the school would lose out unduly insofar as they already have access to permanent accommodation and any immediate structural alterations are likely to be built into their rental arrangements. With temporary recognition, they would get a 75% refund, as against 95% if they had permanent recognition.

I can't readily say what the school transport implications would be.

My own view is that John Scottus has distinctive characteristics and does not fit into any of the existing categories of national school. As such, a short period of evaluation - perhaps one year - would not be unreasonable before the issue of permanent recognition would arise.

I would welcome your views on this matter.

Liam.

Mr. Conall Clancy,
C/o John Scottus School,
47-49 Northumberland Road,
Dublin 4.

19 July, 1999

Dear Mr. Clancy,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 5 July, 1999, which I received today on return from leave.

Your application for recognition will now be submitted for a decision.

Yours sincerely,



Liam Hughes
Principal Officer,
Planning Section,
Planning and Building Unit.

TO: OBRIAIN, SEAN

DATE: 07-28-99
TIME: 16:40

CC: MACCONAONAIGH, LORCAN
OHEIGEARTA, LIAM

SUBJECT: John Scottus School
PRIORITY:
ATTACHMENTS:

Jack,

I agree with the proposal to give the school provisional recognition. LO hEigearta has kept me fully informed of his visit to the school with L Hughes and of the discussions that took place with the authorities of the school. It would appear that the John Scottus authorities are willing and able to meet all the conditions for recognition. The extent to which all of these are met in practice will have to be monitored and reported on by the Inspectorate during the first year. ~~Please copy to me at your convenience the official correspondence which the Dept. has had with the school and the written undertakings which they have made so that the local inspector can be briefed about the monitoring process.~~

Sean.

ISSUED 4/8/99 J. H. S.

REPLY FROM: OFIACHRA, SEAN FROM: OBRIAIN, SEAN

TO: [REDACTED]

DATE: 07-28-99
TIME: 16:05

CC:
SUBJECT: John Scottus School
PRIORITY: R
ATTACHMENTS: Forwarded-> SCOTTUS5.DOC

Sean,

I mentioned this to you briefly yesterday evening. I'd like to have your opinion before proceeding further, please.

Jack.

FORWARDED FROM: OBRIAIN, SEAN
Microsoft Mail v3.0 IPM.Microsoft Mail.Note
From: Hughes, Liam
To: OBRIAIN, SEAN
Cc: OHEIGEARTA, LIAM
OLOINGSIGH, PADRAIG
Kavanagh, Tom
Subject: John Scottus School
Date: 1999-07-22 17:49
Priority: R
Message ID: D32F0AAF
Conversation ID: D32F0AAF
Attachments:
SCOTTUS5.DOC

Jack,

Submission herewith proposing that the above school be granted provisional

Microsoft Mail v3.0 IPM.Microsoft Mail.Note

From: Hughes, Liam

To: OBRIAIN, SEAN

Cc: OHEIGEARTA, LIAM
OLOINGSIGH, PADRAIG
Kavanagh, Tom

Subject: John Scottus School

Date: 1999-07-22 17:49

Priority: R

Message ID: D32F0AAF

Conversation ID: D32F0AAF

Attachments:

SCOTTUS5.DOC

DATE: 07-28-99
TIME: 16:40

Jack,

Submission herewith proposing that the above school be granted provisional recognition from 1 September next.

Liam.

[[SCOTTUS5.DOC : 4360 in SCOTTUS5.DOC]]

Secretary - General. *JA* 29/7/99

Please see attached submission from Liam Hughes.

I have discussed the matter with Sean & Fiachra,
Deputy Chief Inspector who agrees with the recommendation.

In view of the unusual nature of the case, the

Minister may wish to see it.

I recommend that we grant provisional recognition to the school

Agreed

Michael Martin

L. Hughes

J. Kavanagh AP

C.V.

30/7

Note for File

I received a call from a parent re John Scottus. The prospective parent enquired as to the curriculum followed by the school.

I explained that the school has provisional recognition and such followed the National Curriculum.

The parent went on to say that the school requested a voluntary contribution of €650 per term per child and state (the school) the reason for this was the employment of classroom assistants.

Paula Nerney
21.02.03

For John Scottus



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí

An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta



AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS
AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE

Office of the Secretary General Department of Education and Science

Ms. Ita Ní Dhonnchadha.

Co-Clerk.

Joint Committee on Education and Science.

Leinster House,

Dublin 2.

30th May, 2005.

Dear Ms. Ní Dhonnchadha,

Thank you for your letter of 21st April, 2005 in relation to the issue of voluntary contributions sought by John Scottus Junior School.

In response to the queries you have raised, the position is as set out hereunder.

1. Department's Policy on Voluntary Contributions

The position in relation to voluntary contributions is that it is a fundamental principle of the Free Education Scheme that no charge is made in respect of:-

- Instruction in any subject of the Department's Programme for Primary Schools
- Recreation or study facilities where all the pupils are expected to avail themselves of these as part of the school programme
- Any other activities in which all pupils are required to take part.

Local contributions towards education provision have long been a feature of the Irish education system. The extent of such fund-raising, by and on behalf of schools, is determined by a range of socio-economic factors, including the level of local initiative and the desire for additional facilities, over and above what is provided for in the general school programme, as perceived by parents and the wider community.

It is the Department's policy that voluntary contributions are permissible provided that it is made absolutely clear to parents that there is no question of compulsion to pay and that, in making a contribution, they are doing so of their own volition. The manner in which such voluntary contributions are sought and collected is a matter for school management. However, the manner of their collection should be such that it could not reasonably be inferred that the contributions take on a compulsory character. It is important that students are not discriminated against by virtue of their parents not making any contribution.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

In general, the Department does not monitor school policy on voluntary contributions. However, should a complaint be lodged with the Department on this issue, it pursues the complaint through the normal complaints procedure, which would involve an evaluation of the schools policy on voluntary contributions.

3. Appeals process

Under the provisions of the Education Act, 1998 and the regulations of the Department, the Board of Management is the body charged with the direct governance of a school. Complainants are requested to direct their complaints to the Chairperson of a Board of Management in the first instance. Most schools operate a complaints procedure which is designed to facilitate the handling of complaints from parents concerning schools and teachers. Many schools choose to use one of the standard complaints procedures negotiated at national level between school management authorities and teacher interests, but the Board of Management of the school is free to determine its own fair procedure for handling of complaints.

These procedures are intended to facilitate resolution of a complaint as speedily as possible and at the simplest level. The Department supports the principle that complaints regarding schools should be resolved at school level whenever possible and will only involve itself in investigating complaints after all avenues have been exhausted at local level.

Should the Department become involved in an investigation of a complaint against a school, it would frequently include a visit to the school by a member of the Department's Inspectorate.

4. Number and type of complaints received

In general, the type of complaint received by the Department on this issue is in the form of telephone or a written enquiry. In responding to the queries, parents are advised of the Department's policy on the matter of voluntary contributions and of the complaints procedure available to them, should they wish to pursue this course of action.

The Department has initiated its complaints procedure in respect of one primary school in this school year. The matter is still under investigation. The complaint does not relate to John Scottus Junior School.

5. Criteria for granting recognition to primary schools

On the question of the process by which official recognition is applied for and granted to schools, the criteria for the recognition of all new schools, which were revised with effect from 1 September, 2003, are that: -

- The proposed school meets a need that cannot reasonably be met within existing provision
- The local community is consulted in advance
- The patron has been registered as such by the Minister for Education and Science
- A Board of Management will be appointed in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education and Science
- The Rules for National Schools will be complied with
- The proposed school has a minimum initial enrolment of 17 junior infants and a minimum projected enrolment of 51 pupils for the third year of operation
- All pupils are at least four years of age on 30th September of the year in which the school is due to commence operation
- In accordance with Section 10(2) of the Education Act 1998, the proposed interim accommodation complies with the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1996, the Building Regulations 1991 to 1997 (including the Building Control Regulations), the Health Safety and Welfare Act, 1989 and any modifications, statutory instruments or orders made in accordance with these Acts.
- The school will follow the Primary School Curriculum of the Department of Education and Science
- The school will employ recognised primary school teachers.

6. Recognition of John Scottus Junior School

The John Scottus Junior School received recognition from the Department from 1st September, 1999. It was given temporary recognition on the basis that:-

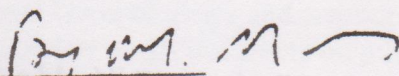
- The school was deemed viable in the context of past and projected enrolments
- There was a demand for the ethos of the school
- The school undertook to comply with the Rules for National Schools including those applicable to the curriculum, teacher qualifications, structure of Board of Management etc.
- The school authorities agreed to discontinue the private fee structure
- The Patronship was deemed acceptable.

The school still operates with temporary recognition. The school authorities have applied for permanent recognition and this is currently being considered by the Department.

The question of permanent recognition involves an evaluation by this Department's Planning Section in consultation with the schools Inspector. School Planning Section of the Department wrote to the school authorities requesting clarification on the "voluntary" aspect of its request for contributions in the context of the school's application for permanent recognition. School Planning Section had anecdotal evidence that the school was charging fees and a letter was received from a local resident outlining the level of contribution being requested by the school. The matter is still under consideration in the context of the schools application for permanent recognition.

I hope this addresses your questions in full and should you require any additional information, I would be happy to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,


Brigid McManus,
Secretary General.

In response to your letter of 21st April, 2005 in relation to the issue of voluntary contributions sought by John Scotus Junior School.

In response to the queries you have raised, the position is as set out hereunder.

1. Department's Policy on Voluntary Contributions

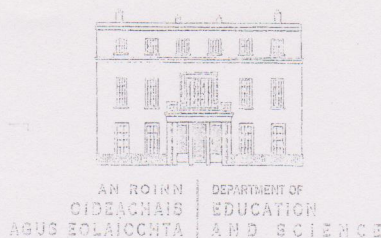
The position in relation to voluntary contributions is that it is a fundamental principle of the Free Education Scheme that no charge is made in respect of:-

- * Instruction in any subject of the Department's Programme for Primary Schools
- * Recreation or study facilities where all the pupils are expected to avail themselves of these as part of the school programme
- * Any other activities in which all pupils are required to take part.

Local contributions towards education provision have long been a feature of the Irish education system. The extent of such fund-raising, by and on behalf of schools, is determined by a range of socio-economic factors, including the level of local initiative and the desire for additional facilities, over and above what is provided for in the general school programme, as perceived by parents and the wider community.

It is the Department's policy that voluntary contributions are permissible provided that it is made absolutely clear to parents that there is no question of compulsion to pay and that, in making a contribution, they are doing so of their own volition. The manner in which such voluntary contributions are sought and collected is a matter for school management. However, the manner of their collection should be such that it could not reasonably be inferred that the contributions take on a compulsory character. It is important that students are not discriminated against by virtue of their parents not making any contribution.

Aonau Fíorána agus Tógála,
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,
Bóthar Port Laoise,
Tulach M.
Co. Uíbh Fhailí



Planning and Building Unit,
Department of Education and Science,
Portlaoise Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.

Mr. D Horan
Chairperson
John Scottus Educational Trust Ltd
47/49 Northumberland Road
Dublin 4

24th June, 2005

Dear Mr Horan,

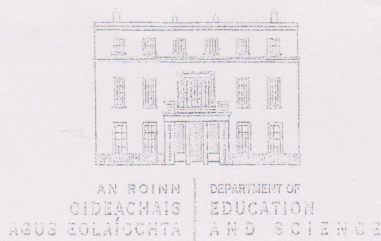
I refer to the question of Permanent Recognition for John Scottus National School.

As you will be aware, the Department of Education and Science is currently considering the application for permanent recognition from your school. Among the issues that have arisen in the context of this process is the amount of the "voluntary contribution" currently being levied by the school. The Department is extremely concerned that since receiving provisional recognition as a national school, parents have continued to be levied in respect of their children's attendance at John Scottus National School.

A letter dated 23 June, 1999 from the Department addressed to Mr. Conal Clancy set out the conditions under which the school would receive provisional recognition. Paragraph 4 of this letter stated *"The school accepts the Department's requirement that no fee of any kind in respect of the provision of primary education may be levied by a national school. However, it has indicated its intention to seek a voluntary contribution towards the cost of lunches and books for example. Nonetheless, it accepts unreservedly that no child may be excluded from any curricular activity in a national school by virtue of the inability of his/her parents to make such a contribution."*

The Department contends that the "voluntary contribution" currently being requested by the school management authorities fails to comply with the condition set out above. The basis for the Department's contention is two fold. Firstly, the level of the contribution being sought i.e. €2175 per annum far exceeds what could be construed as a reasonable cost for school books, lunches etc. Secondly, prior to receiving recognition as a national school, it appears that the school was charging fees of IRP 460 per term. Allowing for annual inflation since then and the conversion to the euro, this figure actually now equates to the "voluntary contribution" currently being requested. It would appear therefore, that the funding arrangements at the school have not changed despite the school having received national school status and benefiting from the substantial funding that goes along with this.

Aonad Pleanála agus Tógála,
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,
Bóthar Phort Laoise,
Tulach Mí,
Co. Uíbh Fhailí.



6
Planning and Building Unit,
Department of Education and Science,
Portlaoise Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.

I note from previous correspondence that 13% of your pupil cohort do not pay any portion of the voluntary contribution. However, the Department considers that the level of "voluntary contribution" sought is such that it would deter parents who might otherwise wish to send their children to the school. The State provides funding to primary schools arising from the constitutional requirement to provide for free primary education.

The Department now requires written assurances that the practice of charging this level of voluntary contribution will cease immediately. Future consideration of the schools application for permanent recognition and indeed the continuing provisional recognition of the school as a national school is dependant on this assurance being received.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Dalton', written over a horizontal line.

Tony Dalton
Principal Officer
School Planning Section

Cc Chairperson, Board of Management

1

John Scottus Educational Trust Ltd.,
47/49 Northumberland Rd., Dublin 4. Telephone 01.6603788

1st July 2005

Dear Mr. Dalton,

✓ J Reed 5/7/05

Thank you for your letter of 24th June. As you are aware John Scottus School has had provisional recognition since 1999, which recognition was granted on the basis of the unique ethos of the School and in furtherance of the support for educational diversity as reflected in the Education Act 1998. The School has been in existence since 1984 and fosters an approach to education which is based upon the application of philosophic principles and approach. This educational vision translates into a particular structure of the school day, a curriculum and a philosophical content and ethos which requires time and resources over and above what is usual for a Primary School. It was on the basis of our ethos that John Scottus School was granted recognition in 1999 expressive of the aspiration of the 1998 act to support

"...the diversity of values, beliefs, languages and traditions in Irish society" (Preamble)

And

"...the need to reflect the diversity of educational services provided in the State." (Sec 7.4 (a) (iii)).

The recognition of John Scottus School was reflective of the provision of the 1998 act, that:

"...in the case of a proposed school, and having regard to the desirability of diversity in the classes of school operating in the area likely to be served by the school, the needs of students attending or likely to attend the school cannot reasonably be met by existing schools (Sec 10.2 (b))"

The management of the School are conscious of their obligations under the act to;

uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school, and at all times act in accordance with any Act of the Oireachtas or instrument made thereunder, deed, charter, articles of management or other such instrument relating to the establishment or operation of the school, (Sec 15.2 (b))

I was party to the original discussions with Department of Education and Science officials in 1999 based upon which provisional recognition was granted and we advised the department at that stage of our duty to uphold the spirit of the School through the curriculum, activities and structure which was mandated by our educational vision. We knew at that time that Department of Education and Science funding would not suffice to cover these additional requirements and we were aware also that no fees could be charged in a National School - this presented a dilemma. It was agreed that we would handle

this dilemma by making these requests for additional funding on an entirely voluntary basis and that we would not refuse admission or in any way affect the treatment of a pupil should the contribution not be paid. We advised the Department of Education officials present of this proposal and they stated that this was acceptable under the terms which you quote from the June letter.

These requests for additional contributions from parents are reflected in the June 1999 letter from which you quote. The June 1999 letter does not detail all of the funding demands upon the School but merely lists books and lunches as examples. Details of further costs can be provided by the Treasurer and would include the fact that our school day is 23% longer than regular National School hours (indeed 50% longer in the case of infant classes) in order to cater for our range of additional subjects and activities as dictated by our ethos and educational vision. Additionally our class size structure and teaching arrangements are sub-optimal in view of the nature of the buildings from which we presently operate – your inspectorate is conversant with the details here. All of these matters were advised to the Department officials in 1999 prior to the grant of recognition and they accepted that they could be covered by voluntary contributions provided no child was excluded from the school on financial grounds.

The concept of open access to education is central to our educational vision and we concur with the aspiration in the 1998 act “...to promote equality of access to and participation in education and to promote the means whereby students may benefit from education;”. Our system of voluntary contributions is entirely in harmony with this aspiration as it does not penalise in any way those who cannot or indeed will not pay. I enclose our most recent letter to parents in relation to contributions and you will note that in spite of issues with the Revenue Commissioners we have decided to adhere to the voluntary approach to funding. You will note from the letter that this is a matter of support for an educational vision and for the schools which enshrine that vision – upon reviewing it I can detect no element of compulsion or pressure – should you have any suggestions for rewording we would be very happy to consider them.

I refer further to the reply in the Dáil Debate of Tuesday, 8 March 2005 by Minister Hanafin:

382. Mr. F. McGrath asked the Minister for Education and Science if her attention has been drawn to the fact that a school (details supplied) in Dublin 4 is requesting voluntary contributions of €725 to €1,250 per child per term from parents; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [7497/05]

Minister for Education and Science (Ms Hanafin): Voluntary contributions by parents of pupils in recognised primary schools are permissible provided it is made absolutely clear to parents that there is no question of compulsion to pay and that, in making a contribution, they are doing so of their own volition. The manner in which such voluntary contributions are sought and collected is a matter for school management. However, their collection should be such as not to create a situation where either parents or pupils could reasonably infer that the contributions take on a compulsory character. The school referred to by the Deputy currently has temporary recognition. All issues, including the matter of payment of fees, would be taken into account in the context of consideration being given to extending permanent recognition to the school.

We are entirely satisfied that all parents have been advised of the voluntary nature of these contributions and that we comply fully with the guidelines given by the minister. We can and are willing to produce ample evidence from parents confirming the voluntary nature of these contributions. We are a developing school experiencing huge growth in pupil numbers over the past years. Your assertion that our system of voluntary contributions would deter prospective parents is completely uncorroborated and entirely unsupported by the evidence of our strong enrolment growth.

Our enclosed letter to parents refers to issues raised by the Revenue Commissioners in relation to the contribution scheme. The issue which the Revenue have raised does not relate to the voluntary nature of the contributions but to the associated benefit which, they claim, is directly associated with this contribution. The Revenue wish to deny parties the right to claim tax advantage from these contributions on the basis that a benefit accrues from the contribution and that this is contrary to the provisions of the act. You will note from our letter that in spite of this objection by the Revenue we intend to continue with these contributions on an entirely voluntary basis even though, in the secondary school, we are legally entitled to revert to fees.

John Scottus Educational Trust is an Educational Charity whose present focus is the support of the John Scottus senior and junior schools. The directors are unpaid and our entire resources are directed to support of the schools – our financial statements for the last academic year are enclosed which show that we operate to a breakeven budget and that we rely on fundraising to balance our budgets. Our requests for contributions are based upon our projected revenue shortfall in the budget year and include no provision for accumulating reserves or indeed for much needed building funds – the aim is entirely day-to-day operations.

In furtherance of the educational vision which John Scottus Educational Trust wishes to sustain we have three principal benefactors:

- i. The Department of Education and Science through teacher salaries and other payments.
- ii. The parent body through voluntary contributions and fundraising.
- iii. The School of Philosophy through use of buildings at low rent costs.

This financial model is very finely balanced and the removal of any single element will seriously impact the ability of the schools to enact their educational vision and provide their unique ethos. Our budgets for 2005/6 have been established based upon the above model and this has been communicated to parents and cannot be adjusted at this stage. I am unaware of any communication from the Department of Education and Science since 1999 in which it was stated that our requests for voluntary contributions were in breach of any legal provisions or guidelines and indeed it is not clear to me from your last letter, what precise legal provisions or guidelines are allegedly being broken. We do have a letter from the department dated 29 April 04, stating '*...considers specific targeted approach to seeking a financial contribution ... is against the spirit of the Education Act 1998*' but again there is no reference to the specific provisions of the act which are being contravened.

Our last inspection by the department was on 2nd Nov 2004 and a detailed letter was written by us for handing to Inspector on the day of the Inspection a letter that was acknowledged on 11th Nov 04 by Paula Nerney of School Planning Section. In that letter we deal with the issue of Voluntary Contributions at some length including detailed educational background and financial information. We make it clear in that letter that we are prepared to meet with the department if the Voluntary Contributions remain an issue. We are at a loss to understand why such a meeting was never sought if these contributions are such a significant concern.

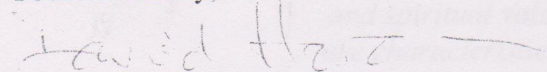
We do not accept that the Department of Education and Science is within its legal rights in attempting to prevent us from seeking contributions from the parent body. We note in your letter that the words Voluntary Contributions are in inverted commas and that the words Charge and Levy are used in respect of these contributions. We reiterate that these contributions have always been presented to parents as voluntary and although a small number of parents may form the mistaken impression that they are mandatory we have always been open and transparent in clarifying this matter and in detailing our financial structure.

We note that your letter was sent after the end of school term for most National Schools. This is a letter which asks us to alter our financial structure in a radical manner in a two month period during which the school will be closed and parents and school principal on holiday. The matter of permanent recognition for our school has been outstanding now for five years. We have had two inspections the last of which was in October 2004 and we are advised that all educational matters are entirely to the satisfaction of the inspectorate. We have received no correspondence whatsoever from the department in respect of voluntary contributions in that entire five year period since provisional recognition. We are surprised therefore to receive this letter, out of term, making such radical requests, and affording no legal basis or reference to guidelines. You will no doubt accept that we cannot jeopardise the furtherance of the educational vision which we uphold, the continued education of the children entrusted to our care or the employment stability of our teaching staff by making such major financial changes at short notice in response to a letter of this nature.

A number of the issues which you raise relate to detailed matters of the educational system which we operate and the associated finances and I can arrange for more detailed response by the Principal and Treasurer should you require same. I enclose our audited financial statements for last year – this year's will be available by September and I can forward them at that stage should you desire. I would also be prepared to meet with you should you wish to discuss this matter further.

We trust that this letter will clarify matters sufficiently to allow finalisation of our application for permanent recognition by the department. We have enjoyed working very closely with your inspector in the resolution of all educational matters relevant to our application and a huge amount of work has been carried out on this by both your inspector and our teaching staff. We look forward to a speedy response as we are unaware of any valid outstanding educational or legal impediment to the granting of full recognition. If matters remain unresolved, and since all other avenues have been exhausted, the governors will have to consider legal action as the next step in this process.

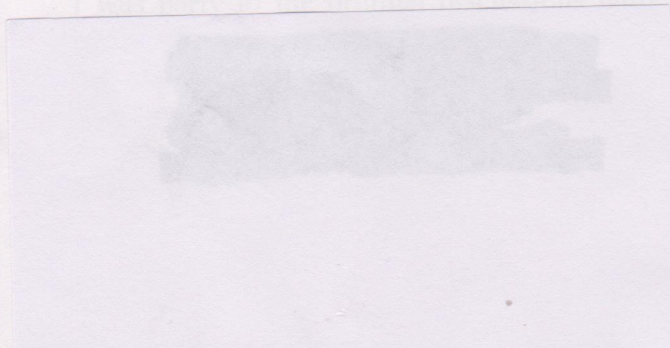
Yours sincerely,



David Horan

Chairman, Board of Governors.

P.S. should you wish to contact me directly you may do so at:





JOHN SCOTTUS SCHOOL

SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA JOHN SCOTTUS

47/49 NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD, DUBLIN 4.

TEL: (01) 6609309, FAX: (01) 6609303,

E-MAIL JSSJUNIOR@EIRCOM.NET, WEB: WWW.JOHNSCOTTUS.IE

8 March, 2007

Dear Parents and Friends of the John Scottus School:

On Saturday, May 5th, the 21st Annual John Scottus School Gala Auction will take place. We have named this 2007 Auction ***"Reach for the Stars"*** to signify the unlimited potential of our children.

Following the success of last year's event which raised over €70,000, we are now delighted to start the ball rolling on this year's event. Your support in past years has been invaluable in helping the school grow and flourish for all of the pupils of John Scottus School. This year, the proceeds will fund laptop computers and software for the School's eLearning and IT teaching, as well as a down payment towards a new school bus.

In the coming days and weeks the Auction Items Committee and Class Representatives will start their campaign to secure support for the event in terms of auction and raffle items. With the Easter Holiday only four weeks away it is imperative we move quickly on this effort. We are seeking items such as: concert / theatre tickets, use of holiday homes, paintings, restaurant vouchers, gift certificates from stores, lessons of any type (music, art, cooking, sport, etc.), jewellery, and electronic items, etc.

We greatly appreciate any support you can offer the event this year that will help lead the effort to maintain our school's excellent reputation for quality and caring education for its pupils.

Sincerely,

Reach for the Stars Auction Committee

Principal: Mary Telford, B.Ed.

Patron: John Scottus Educational Trust Ltd., Company Registration No. 108257.



JOHN SCOTTUS JUNIOR SCHOOL

SCOIL NAISIUNTA JOHN SCOTTUS

47/49 NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD, DUBLIN 4.

TEL: (01) 6609390, FAX: (01) 6607410,

E-MAIL jssjunior@eircom.net, WEB: www.johnscottus.ie

2nd February 2007

Dear

I have had a letter from you on my files for a few months, but have not got around to supplying information that you requested. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

You asked for a breakdown of the costs that your contribution is supporting. In total the costs for the Primary School are as follows:

Teacher Costs	42%	348,837
Catering	22%	180,638
Teaching Materials & Activities	13%	104,638
Buildings	15%	120,608
Other Costs	9%	76,681
Total Costs	100%	<u>831,400</u>

You will see that nearly half of the costs relate to teacher costs not covered by the Department of Education & Science. This represents additional teaching resources going into the education of your son. Also significant is the provision of a daily hot meal.

I hope this helps you see the cost background and shows where your contributions go.

Yours sincerely

Michael Delaney
Bursar



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E-MAIL ISSJUNIOR@EIRCOM.NET, WEB: WWW.JOHNSCOTTUS.IE

17 September 2008

Dear Prospective Parents,

As you can see from the School's Prospectus, John Scottus can only offer the distinctive education and high level of care for your child, because of the generous support provided by the parent body through voluntary contributions, fund raising and practical help in the day to day running of the School.

Your contribution does go towards supporting small class sizes, additional classes in science, art and philosophy, the provision of a hot meal each day, as well as all your child's books and learning materials, and sporting activities in the form of weekly swimming classes.

The Fund Raising Committee has done Trojan work over recent years, and are planning an Auction and Christmas Fair this year.

The payment options are as follows:

- Annual Contribution: A cheque in the amount of the recommended voluntary contribution (presently €3,725) at the start of the school year. All cheques should be made payable to 'John Scottus Educational Trust' and mailed to the School.
- Direct Debit: The above amount phased over ten monthly payments from September to June inclusive.
- Post-dated cheques: The above amount phased over two payments, one in September and the other in January.

As Treasurer I am always available to meet parents to discuss the matter with them on a purely confidential basis.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Delaney, Treasurer
E-mail: mdelaney@eircom.net
Telephone (01) 460 8626

(9)

McGuinness, Judith

From: Loftus, Hubert
Sent: 18 October 2012 17:09
To: McGuinness, Judith
Subject: FW: John Scottus

From: Dalton, Tony (Tullamore)
Sent: 29 May 2012 17:36
To: Loftus, Hubert
Cc: Kelly, Jerome
Subject: RE: John Scottus

Hubert

Thanks for that - I have cc'd Jerome as it will likely transact on his side also.

Tony

From: Loftus, Hubert
Sent: 29 May 2012 17:34
To: Dalton, Tony (Tullamore)
Cc: Eagney, Pauline; McNeill, Teresa; McGuinness, Judith; Hanevy, Martin
Subject: John Scottus

Tony

I had a phone discussion today with Mary Telford, School Principal in John Scottus school.

Over the last number of months she has been seeking a meeting with the Department to discuss permanent recognition for the school.

I explained to her (as I did previously) that a key issue to resolve beforehand was the excessively high "voluntary contribution" at the school which is up to €1,240 per term.

I explained to her that any such meeting would involve the PBU in Tullamore where issues around permanent recognition and school building projects are dealt with.

I reiterated that for any such meeting to be productive the school would need to be coming with a proposal to resolve the "voluntary contribution" issue. In this regard I explained that the school is wasting its time trying to outline a "rationale" for it.

She said that if they were to do deal with the voluntary contribution they would need a transitional period to achieve it as it couldn't be done overnight.

The discussion ended on the basis that she will be talking to the School's Board of Governors and will write to me before any such meeting will be arranged.

I will keep you advised of developments.

Hubert

From: Loftus, Hubert
Sent: 09 August 2011 10:13

18/10/2012

"Total amount of money (in wages, capitation, rental grants and other grants etc) received by the John Scottus National School in Dublin 4 from 2003. I'm seeking the amount that has been provided by the Department of Education and Skills in that time which would not be paid to a private primary school i.e. only those funds which derive from obtaining national school provisional recognition".

I, Stephen Corley, Higher Executive Officer have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 6th September 2017.

The purpose of this letter to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. an explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
2. a statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

1. An explanation of the relevant findings

You have sought access to the records by means of email and I consider this an appropriate form of access in this case. Accordingly, the details you have requested are outlined below.

Grants Paid to John Scottus National School from October 2003 to present is €2,119,936.02.

Salaries paid to Teaching staff of John Scottus National School from October 2003 to present €9,411,507.75.

Please note however that under part 37 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act, the Department is unable to provide details of salaries paid to Special Needs Assistants employed by John Scottus National School as access to the records concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information.



Join our mailing list to get the latest Old Conna updates

Subscribe

- JS navy tracksuit top
- JS navy tracksuit bottoms
- JS royal blue polo shirt
- JS navy shorts
- Navy socks
- Runners: plain white/ navy/ black
- Outdoor boots/wellies

Natural Environment of Old Conna

The Primary School is co-located on the John Scottus Old Conna Campus with the Secondary School. Use of facilities will be partitioned and timetabled so that the Primary School has access to sports fields and grounds, as well as a designated play area for breaks and play time.

Fees

The fees for Junior and Senior Infants are €4,800 per year.

Registration and Enquiries

John Scottus Primary Secretary: Brigid Mallon on 01-660 9309

Or if you'd like more information on Old Conna or have any questions, please send us an email to primaryoldconna@johnscottus.ie

