



## Press Release

10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### **The Joint Managerial Body acknowledges the announcement of additional resources in Budget 2018 for post-primary schools but is concerned that there is no improvement in the Pupil-Teacher ratio or in funding for schools**

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The Joint Managerial Body (JMB) on behalf of the boards of management and school management in voluntary secondary schools welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education and Skills of additional resources for the education sector and post-primary schools in particular.

John Curtis, the General Secretary of the JMB says, ‘We do, of course, welcome the strengthening of the guidance counselling provision and the commitment to provide for extra Special Needs Assistants and Minister Bruton’s statement that every child who needs SNA support will receive it’.

‘Nonetheless, the education sector has suffered from severe cuts through the years of the recession and it is disappointing that the government has not availed of this opportunity to address pressing issues such as the pupil-teacher ratio and funding for schools. The JMB reaffirms its belief that a continuous process of prioritising investment in education is essential for many years to come to address the cumulative effects of what has been at least a decade of under-investment. Ireland has a higher ratio of students to teaching staff at secondary level than the European average and this is something that must warrant attention in order to ensure the ongoing quality of the education we offer in our schools. The funding apportioned to schools to allow them to operate effectively will have to increase and the dependence on the generosity of parents, especially in the voluntary school sector, is unsustainable’.

‘It is an issue of ongoing concern to us that there is inequity in the funding schools in our sector receive compared to schools in other sectors and this needs to be addressed. We again reiterate that school management, staffs and parents need to be supported through a succession of Budgets to ensure that the educational experience we offer the students in our care is of the highest quality and not enough has been done in this Budget in this regard. We look forward to working with Minister Bruton and his officials and to the prioritisation of education and the increased provision of resources in the years ahead,’ states John Curtis.