



## Press Release

9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### **The Joint Managerial Body acknowledges the announcement of additional resources in Budget 2019 for post-primary schools but is concerned that some fundamental issues with regard to funding and the Pupil -Teacher ratio have not been addressed**

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John Curtis, the General Secretary of the JMB says, ‘We acknowledge the increase in spending in the education sphere and especially the commitment to substantial investment in the area of school building. It is encouraging that after the years of austerity we are seeing an increased allocation of funding to education and this does give us promise for the years ahead. However, we do feel that there are a number of substantive issues that have not been sufficiently addressed and will warrant further attention’.

‘The increase of 5% in the capitation grant to schools is of course welcome, but this grant was cut substantially during the years of recession and amounted to at least an 11% loss to schools. At a time when there has been restoration across the public service of most of the cuts implemented during the recession, it is regrettable that students, parents and schools are disadvantaged in this manner. It continues to place an unacceptable burden on schools who have to rely on the generosity of parents to supplement what they receive in grant aid. The cost of running schools has increased enormously in the last number of years, and we would hope that this 5% increase heralds further support to come in this area. We are disappointed, too, that an acknowledged anomaly in the funding system that disadvantages voluntary secondary schools specifically still has not been addressed by the Minister, in spite of previous indications that this would be the case’.

‘There has also been a myriad of other cuts that schools have had to contend with in the last decade; a shaving of support in grants for such as Transition Year students, Leaving Certificate Applied students, Junior Cycle Special Programme students, Traveller students, and a reduction in allocation in Special Needs and Guidance provision. Ireland has a higher ratio of students to teaching staff at secondary level than the European average and this is something that must be addressed in the years to come in order to ensure the ongoing quality of the education we offer in our schools’.

‘We are all justifiably proud in this country of so many aspects of the education system that we have, but it does need increased investment as we collectively strive to improve efficacy and the educational experience of the students in our care. In that respect, 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.