

**Education Budget Cuts Demonstration
NATIONAL RALLY
Parnell Square
DUBLIN
Sat. 6th December 2008
12 noon**

**GARDA CONFIDENTIAL TELEPHONE
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CRIME VICTIMS HELPLINE

If you are a victim of crime—support is available.

Our trained volunteers take calls from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
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'A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain.'

Mark Twain

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'Slash and Burn' Budget 2008

This government has through its cut-backs targeted the poor, the young and the old in a systematic, discriminatory and inequitable manner. The reaction of the general population to this budget has been unprecedented in budget history. There is little doubt that the government and civil service did not think through or visualise or realise the reaction of the people of this country. There have been modifications and adjustments to the policies that were outlined in the budget but only reluctantly and due entirely to the deep-seated and almost revolutionary action of the affected groups—i.e. pensioners and over 70's.

It is all too obvious that those who can really share the burden of a down-turn and depression have not been as affected by this budget as have those who depend on the public health service and public educational services.

The following is an outline of how the budget will affect the children of our country through the implementation of **Education cuts** as of Budget 2008.

Number of Pupils in Classrooms

By implementing an increase in the pupil:teacher ratio there will be more pupils in already overcrowded classrooms. This will also mean that there will be fewer teachers in our schools. The educational needs of your children is at risk. The teachers will be under even more pressure to ensure that the care and attention due to your children is implemented and applied.

There is a complete withdrawal of teachers who look after disadvantaged students and any other disadvantaged scheme.

Withdrawal and Abolition of Specific Grants:

Grants have been abolished in the following areas in our schools for: Choirs and Orchestras; Home Economics; Physics and Chemistry; Junior Certificate Schools Programme; Leaving Certificate Applied; LCVP; Transition Year in Second-Level schools. These grants are instrumental and influential in allowing schools to implement these programmes in our schools. In some cases schools may have to withdraw some or all of these programmes. This will impact further the subjects and choices that your child will have in second-level education.

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DUBLIN
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Tralee Times ®
Editor: Leonard O' Donnell
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**BEWARE!
Make Sure Your Child
Can Be Seen in the Dark**

EDUCATIONAL CUTS continued....

The **School Book Aid Scheme** availed of by families who have difficulties in purchasing expensive school books has been abolished. This will limit our children's chances of improving themselves and will put pressure on parents to provide resources for their children in a time when there is significant other monetary pressures.

School Transport

The charge for school transport is to increase for Junior Cycle students by 78.5% from €168 to €300 and the increase of 28% for Senior Cycle students from €234 to €300 from the summer of 2009. A family will have to pay a maximum of €650

Examination FEES

The State Examinations Commission i.e. Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations Fees increase by 8%. Other examination fees such as FETAC and HETAC will also increase.

Teacher Substitution

There will be no substitution cover for teachers who are absent arising from uncertified leave or those who are out of school on school business. This means that teachers who are for example-taking teams for competition will not have substitution cover for their classes. This will mean, in many cases, that students will have to be sent home as there will be health and safety issues relating to inadequate provision of Supervision and it may mean a reduction in school-level sports competitions.

Higher Education

There will be a reduction of €43m for Higher Education.

There is an increase in the student registration charge of 66% to €1500

There will be no increase in student maintenance grants. This will in effect make it more expensive for parents and students to achieve their educational goals and chosen career options.

Teacher Education

There will be a significant reduction in the funding of teacher in-service programmes thereby preventing many teachers from improving their skills and methodologies. This will in effect restrict the adequate provision of the current and future syllabi within our schools. Your child will not be afforded the opportunity of availing of new and necessary programmes due to these cuts.

These are just some of the more salient points of the education cuts from Budget 2008. **Can the Government of Ireland afford not to invest in your child's Education?** Now more than ever we need to give our children the very best opportunities and prospects so that they can go forward and achieve their potential and aptitude in a world that is 'super' competitive!

**Drivers—Check Your Lights and Tyres this Winter
Drive with Your Lights ON All Day****European Virtual Library**

THE EUROPEAN Union unveiled its virtual library yesterday, giving internet users access to more than two million books, maps, recordings, photographs, paintings and films from the 27 member states.

The documents and recordings have been provided to **www.europeana.eu** by more than 1,000 national libraries and cultural institutions. The online library plans to offer access to 10 million works by 2010.

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Tide Times on www.traleetimes.com directory**TRALEE ON ICE**

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ROAD SURFACING

There have been significant welcome improvements in road / street and footpath surfaces throughout the town in recent times.

However, while this new surfacing is very welcome to all road users, there is a very necessary need to improve the road surface between Balloonagh Cross and Mounthawk. It would appear that such an improvement in the road surface is far from being imminent.

Included in such a resurfacing programme, should it happen, is the need to install appropriate speed control measures or traffic calming measures.

This area is a densely populated part of town which includes a major secondary school and primary schools and therefore needs such speed control measures.

Speed control measures can include speed cushions, speed tables, raised junctions, rumble devices, round-top humps, which are suitable for all types of vehicles.

The idea of the installation of such measures just requires town and county engineers and councilors to take an interest in this area and to make the right decisions subject to funding being available.

Check this link for further information:
[http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/
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