

Brainse an Iarbhunoideachais.
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,
Corn a Madach,
Baile Atha Luain,
Co. na hIarmhí.



Post-Primary Administration,
Department of Education and Science,
Cornamaddy,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath.

Circular: 0112/2008

The Chief Executive Officer of the Vocational Education Committee

Borrowings by Parents' Groups/Associations to fund development of Vocational Education Committee Facilities

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

I am directed by the Minister for Education and Science to refer to a practice which has come to the attention of the Department whereby certain Parents' Groups/Associations have borrowed to fund the development of VEC facilities. In some cases the Parents' Groups/Associations have undertaken repayments themselves while in other cases the VEC has effectively repaid the borrowings.

The Department while acknowledging the role and commitment of Parents' Groups/Association is concerned that these practices could lead to a situation where a VEC might incur commitments for which it has no provision or authority. Accordingly, the Department wishes to remind VECs that they or any officer on their behalf may not provide written assurances, guarantees or letters of comfort to Parents' Groups/Associations who wish to borrow in order to develop VEC facilities, or for any other purposes.

VECs are reminded that they themselves or any of their schools may only borrow with the prior approval of the Committee and the Minister for Education & Science.

Any queries, at VEC level, regarding the implementation of this Circular Letter should be addressed to the Post Primary Administration Section, in Athlone. (Tel: 090-6484232, Fax: 090-6484058).

You are requested to provide a copy of this Circular to the parents' and teachers' representatives on Boards of Management.

Matthew Ryan
Principal Officer
November, 2008