

# 37 TEACHERS WORRIED OVER LATE TV SHOWS

By **ANTHONY GALVIN**

LIMERICK teachers are worried that some school children are watching too much television — and that their school performance is suffering as a result.

They feel that the huge amount of channels now available at the flick of a button is luring children into late-night and early-morning goggle-box sessions.

Early morning television is a particular lure, with children tuning into cartoons and breakfast shows at the crack of dawn.

"You can't function in a school if you've been up for hours watching cartoons," said one principal, Peter Long, of Scoil Ide. There is also a fear that

young children have access to pornographic material — though this fear has been exaggerated, according to Mr Long.

"I wouldn't be so worried about the videos, because parents can control what is being watched, if they are concerned enough," he said.

"And video shops in the city are very good — I've seen them turn away children who are trying to take out films that are not suitable for them."

INTO PRO Joe Lyons said that he had heard of pupils arriving into school red-eyed and tired from too much unsupervised viewing, the previous night.

"I'm sure there are cases of it," he said, "From time to time, you hear people complaining that children are watching too much television.

"But a teacher can't say to a parent that their child is watching too much. Parents have a responsibility in the matter. And some television can be very good for children.

But not all television. Early morning television got the thumbs down from Mr Long.

"It isn't late-night watching, but early morning watching that would worry me," he continued.

"Some children are

watching cartoons from 7am onwards. There's a DJ Cat on one of the channels that a lot of them watch, and it leaves them tired when they get into school.

"It's probably too isolated to be a problem yet, and a number of parents haven't

got the channels that broadcast at that time. But whenever we talk to parents, we make them aware of our concern.

"You can't function in school if you've been up all morning, watching cartoons."



Ger McNamara, left, with Antoinette Brosnan; Jackie McNamara and Francis Brosnan, enjoying the Young Munster R.F.C. dress dance recently. (LL)

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