

City teachers hit out on sex education and pupil ratios

By **EUGENE PHELAN**

LIMERICK teachers this week hit out on the question of training for sex education and the vexed issue of pupil-teacher ratios.

They were addressing the Irish National Teachers' Organisation congress in Galway.

And other INTO delegates backed a call from Southill junior school principal Mary O'Dwyer to have the pilot programme for the panel of supply teachers made permanent.

She said that the pilot programme had worked very well in Limerick, Mayo, and Dublin, and it was now time for the Minister for Education, Niamh Bhreathnach, to ensure that the programme was made permanent.

In Limerick there are 10 supply teachers available, each day, should a teacher

in any of the schools in the area not turn up for class.

If a teacher is absent, due to illness or for another reason, the principal in the school rings either the Salesian school, at Fernbank, or the Southill Junior School, which is the headquarters for the supply teachers.

"It has been an outstanding success, and the teachers have shown how tremendously adaptable they are," said Ms O'Dwyer.

Ted Motherway, of the John F. Kennedy School, on the North Circular Road, a member of the INTO Education committee, spoke on the plans by the Minister for Education to introduce a new programme into schools titled "Relationships and Sex Education."

He warned the Minister that she could not introduce this programme in isolation, and that teachers would have to get in-service training if they were to implement it.

Eileen Kennelly, principal of the Limerick School

Project, spoke on a motion calling on the Government to treat all schools the same as Gaelscoileanna.

Emphasising that she had nothing against Gaelscoileanna, she said that all schools should get

the same teacher ratio and grants.

It was unfair that a multi-denominational school, like the Limerick School project, should be at a disadvantage compared to Gaelscoileanna.

Mungret pupils

MUNGRET College closed 21 years ago and next month some 300 pupils will meet at the former school premises to commemorate that event.

The past pupils association, which is still active, is holding a weekend re-union in Limerick on Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20.

It promises to be a very special occasion.

The Friday will feature a golf classic in Newcastlewest, followed in the evening by the annual general meeting of the union at the Ryan Hotel. This will include a drinks reception.

On the Saturday they will have a tour of the college from 2pm to 4pm and meet at 6.30pm. That evening there will be a drinks reception at 7.30pm and a black tie dinner at the school hall at 8.30pm.

Richard Hurley, chairman of the Southern branch

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