

# PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN



**The welfare of our children is top priority for the Green Party. In Government, we insisted on:**

- Reversing severe education cuts in Budget 2009
- Maintaining pupil / teacher ratios
- Introducing the cervical vaccine to teenage girls
- Maintaining free access to third level education for everybody

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Our children deserve the best education possible. It's been difficult to maintain education funding in these tough economic times, but in 2009, the Green Party insisted on reversing funding cutbacks and maintaining free access to third level education for all. We ensured that: 500 teaching posts were provided to keep up with growing pupil numbers; capitation grants to schools were maintained; funding for school psychologists was protected; and that there would be no further increase in the pupil-teacher ratio. **We have also:**

- Introduced a **free pre-school year** for all children
- Addressed the lack of **ABA education** for children with autism
- Clamped down on **text and phone message scams**, which often targeted children
- Clamped down on **junk food advertising** aimed at children



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