



Scoil Naomh Laisrian,
Leithghlinn an Droichid,
Co. Ceatharlach,
Uimhir Rolla 19784S

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24th October 2008

Dear Parents,

I am sending you this letter in common with other Principals in the Carlow area. As you are probably well aware the recent budget introduced some severe cuts in Education. The most serious of these was the increase of the pupil teacher ratio. While this increase will not affect our school this year it could well impact on us in the future. Parents and members of Boards of Management have already begun lobbying local representatives about these cuts which will affect pupils in schools throughout the country.

On Wednesday next 29th October, the Labour Party has tabled a motion on class size in the Dáil, which is scheduled to be debated between 7.00-8.30pm. If you feel strongly about this issue please lobby to bring home to our local TDs (contact details below) the devastating effects of the proposed cuts on school communities.

- Class Size: Irish classes are already the second highest in Europe. Next year, your child's class could be even more crowded.
- School Books: Funding for free books for disadvantaged children is withdrawn in 90% of schools.
- Substitute Teachers: From 1st January 2009 there will be no substitute cover for teachers on uncertified sick leave. Schools may have to send children home as the government won't pay for substitute teachers.
- Equipment Grants: All equipment and resource grants for resource teachers working with special needs children abolished.
- Library Books: €2.1m is gone from school library grants.

Our local TDs in the Carlow/Kilkenny constituency are:

M.J. Nolan (FF)	059 – 914 2691
Mary White (GP)	059 – 917 3721
John McGuinness (FF)	056 – 777 0672/3
Bobby Aylward (FF)	056 – 779 4570
Phil Hogan (FG)	056 – 777 1490

Yours faithfully,

Principal