

Dear Minister Cullen,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Parents Committee of Gaelscoil, Philib Barun in Tramore. We are aware of your commitment to assisting communities within your electorate region, and we hope that you may be able to offer some assistance to our community and school. Members of our parents committee have spoken highly of the assistance you have provided to communities over the past number of years.

The 200 pupils of our school remain in prefabs which were installed by the department of Education in 2002. The expenditure of these prefabs is a staggering €60,000 annually. Since the establishment of the school nearly 25 years ago pupils have been accommodated by a range of temporary dwellings. It is sad to think that the first students of the school now almost 30 years old must continue to witness members of their family attend a school which has no permanent building.

We are aware Minister that this shortfall is not your responsibility and that there are other schools throughout the country with similar needs. We are furthermore cognizant of the fact that the present economic downturn may require parents and schools to be patient. As such, we are totally understanding of the present situation, but unlike others we do have faith in the ability of the current government to steer the country in the right direction. It is our intention to continue to seek a permanent building for our school and to be prepared for such a move when the time comes.

**With your assistance Minister, we would like to see Gaelscoil Philib Barun moved to a level one priority from its second placed position which it currently is at. At this level one priority the school board and the parents committee will be optimistic and prepared when funding is granted for a permanent building. We request that you make representations to the Minister of Education Mr. O'Keeffe on our behalf.**

Finally Minister, I would like to highlight why our school is so important to the community of Tramore. We respect and appreciate diversity; we attempt to include the whole community in the many projects we undertake from recycling to volunteerism. Each year we fundraise for community organisations such as Barnardo's and children of third world countries. We are committed to our school and community and as we continue to grow in numbers our ethos of civic and environmental responsibility grows too.