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Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A chara,

I am writing to you as a parent of children who are attending St. Finian’s National School, Waterville, Co. Kerry. The building was completed in 1913. For the past one hundred and seven years, it has served the community well and is currently not fit for purpose. Over the years the Department of Education have provided grants for maintenance and the upkeep of the school. The original four classrooms built over a hundred years ago remain in use today. Our classrooms vary in size from 42m² – to 48m² – well below the standard classroom sizes. This impinges on the teaching of the curriculum and is a huge health and safety issue. The corridor is approximately 1 metre wide and is an area where congestion and accidents occur on a daily basis.

Another area of huge concern to me is our yard area. Having three extensions built over the past few years these have significantly reduced the children’s playing area. St. Finian’s NS is a health promoting school and has strong tradition of sports. Children require space to be active and as a parent I feel very passionate about this. In today’s society more playing areas are required not less.

Another area of concern to me, as a parent is the problem of parking outside the school. The school is located on a busy access road to Waterville. Parents have no option but to park on both sides of the road at school opening and closing times. There are no free parking areas in the vicinity of the school. This is an accident waiting to happen.

At present, all children from infants to sixth class are required to leave their classroom to visit the toilet facilities. These facilities are located at the rear of the building with children passing both the front and emergency exits to get there. This means that they are unsupervised during this time, posing flight risks for younger and SEN children. Along with this our Special Education Teachers are currently sharing one special education room on a daily basis and are therefore limited in meeting the academic, sensory and overall needs of our SEN children. On a regular basis, the school is at full capacity everyday. Should an advisor from PDST, SESS or NCSE services, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists, public health nurse or secondary school liaison teachers visit the school, there is no available room to facilitate a meeting.

I would be more than grateful if you could see your way to making positive representations to the current Minister for Education and Science for an application for a new School.

Yours sincerely,

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Parent – St. Finian’s NS, Waterville, Co. Kerry.