

Cruinniú idir Bord Bainistíochta agus Coiste Cumann na dTuistmitheoirí na Gaelscoile ar an 4ú lá Meitheamh 2025

I Láthair / Present:

- Bord Bainistíochta: Gillian Uí Chochláin, Mairéad Áine Ní Urdail, Áine Ní Cheallaigh agus Marguerite Breathnach
- Coiste Cumann na dTuistmitheoirí: Anthony Ó Niatháin agus Enda Ó Muineacháin

The meeting was arranged by the Board of Management (BOM) to discuss the following agenda:

- Tuistmitheoirí Ainmnithe don Bord Bainistíochta / Board of Management Parent Nominees
- Comhairliúchán ar dhréacht an polasaí Bí Cineálta / Consultation on the draft of the Bí Cineálta policy
- Éide Scoile / School Uniform

The Parents' Association Committee (PA Committee) requested that the following topics be also added to the agenda:

- Ráiteas Sabháilteacht & Sláinte / Health & Safety Statement
- Uasdátú Scoil Nua / New School Update
- Lóna Te / Hot Lunches.

An agenda was circulated at the meeting including all matters suggested by both the BOM and PA Committee.

Fáilte / Welcome

The Chairperson of the Board of Management welcomed the Parents' Association Committee and thanked them for their attendance.

Ráiteas Sláinte & Sabháilteacht / Health & Safety Statement

The Health & Safety Authority (HSA) recently carried out an inspection of the Gaelscoil which was very successful. The Health and Safety Statement is almost complete and should be ready by mid-June. The relevant content will be shared with parents.

Uasdátú Scoil Nua / New School Update

The BOM has been in regular contact with the Department of Education regarding the new school but the Department has no recent update about the Gaelscoil's new school.

Éide Scoile / School Uniform

There was a lengthy discussion on the matter of school uniform(s). The BOM representatives explained that this topic has been discussed by the BOM over the past few years and explained that it was happy with the current two uniform-policy. The most recent survey of parents indicated that some pupils were experiencing sensory problems with the current wool

jumper. In order to address this feedback, the BOM had obtained a sample of a new jumper consisting of a mix of materials, which was displayed at the meeting. The BOM are making enquiries with Kevin Bowens in relation to the supply and cost of this new jumper. The BOM proposed making a sample jumper available for viewing by parents. The BOM hopes to implement the new jumper over a two year period.

The PA Committee representatives suggested that parents should be surveyed as to whether they wanted a tracksuit-only uniform or continue with the current two uniforms. The BOM representatives stated that they would bring this suggestion of the parental survey to the next BOM (later this month) but noted that a letter had been emailed in February to the PA Committee stating that the next survey would take place during the next academic school year 2025/2026. The PA Committee representatives referred to the Department Circular 00032/2017 on school uniforms and said that it was not being followed by the Gaelscoil. The BOM queried whether the recent Uniform Exchanges went some way towards addressing some of the suggestions in this circular which the PA Committee agreed it did.

Lónta Te / Hot Lunches

The PA Committee representatives raised concerns that some parents have expressed in relation to the current hot lunch programme such as they feel the general quality of meals and the absence of cold options. They also queried the possibility of switching to a local supplier when the current contract expires. The BOM agreed to look into the above feedback.

Tuismitheoirí Ainmnithe don Bord Bainistíochta / Board of Management Parent Nominees

The BOM noted the importance of having a Parent Nominee. The need to elect two new Parent Nominees to the BOM was discussed. The procedure for election and nomination of Parent Nominees from the Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2023 - 2027 was distributed at the meeting. This document outlined the options for electing the Parent Nominees, namely (a) nomination and election to take place at a meeting of parents or (b) via a postal written ballot. The PA Committee representatives agreed to discuss these options with parents and revert as to their preferred election method by 13th June 2026. It was agreed that elections would not take place until the new academic school year.

Comhairliúchán ar dhréacht an polasaí Bí Cinéalta / Consultation on the draft of the Bí Cineálta policy

A draft of the Gaelscoil's updated anti-bullying policy (Bí Cineálta) was shared with the PA Committee in advance of the meeting. This needs to be in place for the next academic year 2025/2026. The draft is in full compliance of the Bí Cineálta procedures issued by the Department of Education. This sharing is part of the consultation with parents. The PA Committee will seek feedback from parents in relation to this draft and share this with the BOM.

Aon Ghnó Eile/AOB

Gillian expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Board of Management to the parents involved in organising the reception for the First Holy Communion class and families. Enda mentioned that the gratitude would be minuted and that parents were happy with the GAA pavilion as a

venue for the Holy Communion. Enda mentioned that it would be nice to consider it as a possible venue for the Christmas concert in the new academic year.

The PA have offered to purchase footballs for the school yard and suggested methods to block the balls from going over the gate to alleviate the loss of soccer balls at yard times. It was also proposed by the PA Committee that a portion of PA funds would be set aside to purchase items based on feedback from Comhairle na nDaltaí. This was gratefully accepted by the BOM.

The PA Committee was invited to attend a farewell reception for Múinteoir Nioclás on 16th June.