

## **Rphoist Samplach do thuistí / *Sample Email for Parents***

Subject: **Tús áite d'Oideachais sa Toghchán** / Prioritising Education in Upcoming Elections

Dear [Representative's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. As a concerned (parent/teacher) in our community, I urge you to prioritise education in your campaign for the upcoming election.

The recent Budget 2025 has revealed significant shortcomings in funding for primary education, including;

- ❖ Inadequate capitation funding: a 12% increase in core funding with a reduction in the cost of living funding. An absolute minimum of 20% had been campaigned for. 12% will not allow us to keep the lights and heat on in schools without fundraising. We have still not reached pre-recession levels of capitation funding, while costs soar annually.
- ❖ Leadership posts: 1000 new posts were granted, but posts have still not been restored to pre-2010 levels. Over 15 years now of less leadership capacity in our schools. This is a core issue impacting the Principal retention crisis and the teacher retention crisis.
- ❖ Class sizes: Despite a huge surplus, we failed to reduce class sizes for the second year running. We have the biggest class sizes in the EU, impacting the learning of every child in every class in the country.

Our children deserve better, and education must be a key election issue.

Please share your plans for addressing these challenges and ensuring that our schools receive the necessary support to provide quality education.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Best regards,