

## **Grennan College Parents Council**

### **Notes on Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

#### **What is Grennan College Parents Council?**

- *Grennan College Parents Council is the structure through which parents/guardians in the school work together for the best possible education for their children.*
- *The Parents Council works with the principal, staff and the board of management to build effective partnership of home and school.*
- *Educational research on the involvement of parents in schools shows that children achieve higher levels when parents and teachers work together.*
- *The Parents' Council advise the principal and Board of Management on policy issues and incidents that may require a review of school policy, e.g. Bullying, Safety, Homework, Enrolment, Behaviour problems etc. They are also involved in reviewing current policies.*
- *The Parents' Council can suggest and/or organise extra-curricular activities. The Parents Council can fund raise.*
- *The Parents' Council is a support for parents in the school.*
- *The Parents' Council can invite speakers to address parents on issues which are topical or relevant.*
- ***The Parents' Council is not a forum for complaint against either an individual teacher or parent. The Complaints Procedure is the mechanism for this.***

**A group of parents and the Principal Mr Sean Og O'Sullivan met at the school on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and discussed the following points:**

Autism Unit – an Autism Unit will start in the school in September 2023. It will cater for 4-6 students with 1.5 teachers and 2 SNAs allocated. It will be temporarily housed in the current computer room (Room 16). An application is being lodged with the Department of Education for a new building project to house this unit.

The school is also working on improved pedestrian access to the school.

Entrance tests for the new 1<sup>st</sup> Year group (September 2023) will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Numbers for September 2023 is currently standing at 68.

The Gym opened in November 2022. It is currently only open to local sports clubs. It is planned to purchase a defibulator for the gym.

There is not much student space around the school at the moment, for example a Wellness Room when students could take a break. This is an area that the Parents Council could play a key role.

A student led initiative was the return of a water drinking tap. This was removed during Covid and is hoped to be reinstalled shortly. It is hoped that it will lead to a reduction in the amount of single use plastic bottles being used and students will refill a reusable water bottle.

It is planned that the school video will be updated. It would be great to include some parents' voices. It can be view on this link: <https://youtu.be/8s4oOBvZ2Rs>

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

**All Welcome. Please come along and get involved.**