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Principal: Mr Mark Fitzsimons

*'Striving for Greatness Together.'*

2/10/24

## **Re: School Development Planning (2025 to 2028).**

Dear all,

Recent years in education have witnessed much upheaval with the onset of the global pandemic in 2020 interspersed with periods of ASOS and Strike Action from school leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff. These issues have had a major impact on all schools. However, the landscape has changed considerably now with the pandemic being overcome and pay settlements having been agreed with all staff within educational settings.

A new normality has now emerged and with this comes a host of opportunities for Sacred Heart P.S. One such endeavour will be the creation of a new School Development Plan (2025 to 2028). An SDP is a strategic plan for improvement. It identifies priorities for advancement in certain areas and is based on evidence from self-evaluation. It is essentially the 'roadmap' for a school.

The timeline for the creation of our SDP will follow this format:

**September 2024** – Setting the scene.

**October to December 2024** – Engagement.

**January 2025 to March 2025** – Planning.

**April 2025 to June 2025** – Drafting, sharing and implementing.

**September 2025** – Launch.

Engagement is a key part of the SDP process. Over the next few months our staff, pupils and you as parents will be asked to partake in stakeholder questionnaires. The outcomes of these questionnaires will be used to compare feedback, explore common strengths, target areas of weakness and ambiguity, revisit values, mission and vision in a new context and form initial strategic intents. Focus Groups will also be created for parents and participation in these is most welcome.

Our new SDP will provide real ownership with relevant stakeholders involved in the process throughout. It will be reviewed collectively with its aim being to raise standards and provision for our pupils. It will be realistic for all participants and ultimately, a document that we can all be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Fitzsimons.

