

8th March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer



School Funding Update

Following my letter to you in September I am writing to update you on issues relating to school funding. Head teachers across the country have lobbied the Government and Department for Education but are still not being provided with adequate funding to deliver the level of provision and support to fund the kind of world class education system our children need.

These are the current concerns:

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8% and by 20% at post-16
- In many schools class sizes are rising and the curricular offer is being restricted
- The Local Authority's provision for Social Services, Family Support Workers and CAMHS has been cut and is leading to an increased requirement for schools to support more families in their physical and mental wellbeing but without adequate resource
- Often, the most vulnerable students in our schools – those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they are entitled to.

Head teachers have so far:

- Campaigned at Westminster to underline the seriousness of the situation. This action was unprecedented.
- Written to the Secretary of State for Education on three separate occasions since September asking for a meeting. These requests have all been declined.
- Written to the Secretary of State for Education in January asking him to reconsider the request for a meeting. This was again declined

We need to meet the Secretary of State for Education because:

- Head teachers want to contribute constructively to overcome current funding issues.
- Head teachers want to reflect the serious concerns expressed by families regarding inadequate levels or resource and provision especially for our most vulnerable students.
- Head teachers want to ensure that schools receive a much better deal when future Government spending plans – the Comprehensive Spending Review - are drawn up over the next few months.
- Head teachers want to indicate serious and rising concerns relating to the wider pastoral and social care that schools are expected, by default, to provide against a background of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

The current response from the Department for Education is inadequate.

I am making contact to urge you to continue to make representations to your MP and to the Department for Education and wider Government to ensure that matters improve. I know some parents and carers have already done this and I am grateful for your support. We will continue to inform you of the facts and to campaign vigorously over coming weeks and months. A positive starting point should come from the Secretary of State for Education in the form of an urgent meeting. We are determined to campaign until a much better and fairer settlement is reached in order to support your child and the future prosperity of the country as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Roach
Executive Principal

Mr D Butler
Associate Principal