

22 May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

School Funding Update

As we reach the end of the current financial year Headteachers from secondary schools and academies across Slough have come together once again to inform you of the difficult financial situation that we are in.

School funding is a highly complex issue and over an extended period of time we have provided detailed analysis to the government of how our school budgets are being affected.

Against this background, we believe it is vital to provide blunt facts that inform you about the ongoing crisis that our pupils / schools are facing. To be clear, this is what the new National Funding Formula (NFF) does for children in Slough:

- Our schools will be funded between 18-30% lower than equivalent size schools in most London boroughs. These massive differences occur even before additional money for deprivation (the Pupil Premium) is accounted for.
- Schoolcuts.org.uk estimate that on average every secondary school pupil in Slough will have seen a decrease in funding of £424 since 2015. The decrease in funding for each student at The Langley Academy is estimated at £435. All figures are taken from www.schoolcuts.org.uk and show how school funding is being cut per pupil in real terms by comparing 2015/16 with 2019/20.
- Class sizes will continue to rise and your child will not receive the same resources and opportunities as many other children in better funded areas.
- Further, services to children with special educational needs and those who require specialist school provision are in a critical financial position.
- Special school Headteachers are reporting that there is a risk to financial viability in the next 12-18 months, especially if further proposed cuts take place. These cuts seem inevitable under the current financial arrangements.
- Disadvantaged pupils in Slough do less well than students from similar backgrounds in London. All 10 boroughs for the best upward social mobility in the country are London boroughs (top 3% out of 324), and whilst Slough is in the top 20% for upward social mobility, decreases in funding will not sustain this.

Thousands of Headteachers across the country are all saying the same thing. We are not exaggerating the problems but making clear how challenging the situation is. Repeated

representation to government has been made, both locally and at national level through our professional associations and campaigns such as Worth Less?

Headteachers have also met with our local MPs on several occasions. They have listened to our views carefully and over a sustained period of time have lobbied government on our behalf, but to date very little has changed. In particular, we wanted public acknowledgement that the new funding formula does not provide anywhere near enough **basic level funding for our children** before 'other' factors (such as deprivation or English as a second language) are taken into account.

Headteachers all agree that above all else we urgently need two main things:

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- The basic level of funding (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) to increase significantly for all schools so that they can function adequately.
 - Additional resource and money to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

All schools in Slough are committed to delivering the best standard of education for our children and will continue to do all we can to achieve this aim, despite facing significant financial pressures. However, in the light of our concerns we are urging all parents to contact their local MP, to request greater levels of support. There is no political agenda to our work. All we want is a fairer and better deal for the children and families that we serve.

Slough's MP is Tan Dhesi and can be contacted at tan.dhesi.mp@parliament.uk should you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher