

School Funding Consultation

9 February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Many of you will have read reports in the national press concerning possible changes to the funding of schools and the local press has reported on how this would affect the Stroud area. The outlook for school funding over the next few years is indeed bleak and I am writing to all parents to clarify the position for this school.

There are two changes to school funding taking place. The current publicity concerns a proposed new National Funding Formula which is planned for full implementation in 2019/20. While Gloucestershire is already a low funded authority, the effect of the new formula would be to make a 2.2% cut to this school's funding, i.e. £117,000 based on this year's budget.

The other change concerns a grant which local authorities and academies receive, known as the Education Support Grant, which pays for various statutory services. This grant is being phased out over two years in 2017/18 and 2018/19. For us, the grant is £112,000 and we will lose this in roughly two halves, i.e. £56,000 in 2017/18 and the other half in 2018/19. Therefore, in 2019/20, if our student numbers do not change, we will receive roughly £230,000 less than this year.

In addition to these cuts, we receive no increases in our income to manage the rising costs of equipment and services or the pay awards for our teaching and other staff. The pay awards alone increase the salary bill by over £40,000 per year.

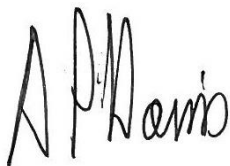
Over recent years we have already absorbed significant increases in pension and National Insurance costs, taken a cut of 17% in sixth form funding and managed increased staffing costs on an income per student that has been fixed for the last five years.

Finding the additional savings will be difficult as we wish to protect our curriculum and pastoral support and avoid significant increases in teaching group sizes. We are fortunate that, in the last three years, the school has been oversubscribed and we hope that this continues. We have some time to plan and make changes before the full impact of these cuts takes effect but managing this will be challenging there will, inevitably, be some changes to our provision. Nevertheless, we will do all that we can to maintain a high standard of education for the children in our school.

Our local MP, Geoffrey Clifton Brown, is already very engaged in responding to the current consultation. We would appreciate it very much if you would write to him and voice your concerns about the unfairness of the proposals and the impact it could have on our school. You can reach him on cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk. If you live outside of his constituency, please contact your local MP, they are equally concerned. You might also like to write to the Secretary of State for education, Justine Greening at ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk. If the consultation goes through unchanged, there is unlikely to be another opportunity to reach a fairer settlement for several years.

Thank you for your help. If you would like to know more about the details of these changes, please contact us. We will be touching on this at the Governors AGM meeting in school at 7.00pm on the 22nd February to which you are invited.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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