



St Mary's RC Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr J Wheatley
Chair of Governors: Mr M Currie

Wednesday 28th November 2018

School Funding Crisis

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to draw your attention to the attached letter from the Gateshead Association of Primary Headteachers, Association of Secondary Headteachers and Association of Special School Headteachers. The letter, which is intended to be circulated to all families of children and young people in Gateshead today, outlines the current financial crisis facing schools - locally and nationally - to which St Mary's is no exception.

To put it bluntly, schools are not receiving adequate funding. The present financial reality of the majority of schools is that, in spite of rigorous and robust financial management, cut backs and ever-increasing workload for staff at all levels, balancing the books is becoming an impossible task. At St Mary's, as with the majority of Gateshead schools, we are facing a significant deficit in our budget which will, over the next two financial years, become practically unmanageable. If a high-performing, over-subscribed school like ours is looking at a budget that simply does not work, we have a cataclysmic situation on our hands, not only in Gateshead, but as a nation. It is patently clear that we need to do all that we can to ensure that schools like ours continue to be able to meet the educational, social, moral and emotional needs of all our pupils effectively - to do any less than this would be to fail the very communities we are here to serve.

This is where you can make a difference. I believe that our parents and members of our wider school families are the ones who can make the biggest difference; you are the ones whose voices resonate the most with our elected Members of Parliament, and of course with our serving Government ministers. If you make a noise, they have to listen. So, what can you do? If, like me, you feel passionately that the Government should be doing more to fund sufficiently schools like St Mary's, I would urge you to do the following:

- Read the attached letter, and share its contents with as many people as possible (friends, family, colleagues etc).
- Sign the petition to support the call for the Government to fund Gateshead schools sufficiently and fairly. If this petition reaches 100,000 signatures, it has to be considered for debate in Parliament.
- Share the link to the petition (<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/232220>) with as many people as possible via text, email, social media etc, and encourage them to sign it too.
- Like and re-tweet the information from our school Twitter feed (@whickhamstmarys); tweet of your own accord using #EnoughOfNotEnough and #FairFundingForOurSchools.

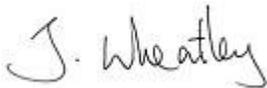
- Have a look on the <https://schoolcuts.org.uk/> website to see the impact that inadequate funding has had on our school, and many others in Gateshead and elsewhere. Use this information and make a noise about the funding crisis.
- Write to your local MP, in our case Liz Twist (Post: Parliamentary, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA; Tel: 0207 219 2221; Email: liz.twist.mp@parliament.uk), to share your views about school funding, and encourage others to do the same.

This is an issue that, if we ignore it, will simply not go away, and it requires as many of us as possible to speak up and ensure that our voices are heard.

At St Mary's, we care passionately about maintaining the best possible provision for all our pupils - in and out of the classroom. Please help us work alongside our partner communities in Gateshead in standing up for the rights of all our pupils.

Thank you for taking time to read and act.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher