

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached a letter that I have sent to our local MPs today regarding school funding. I appreciate the support you have been giving to us in lobbying for a better deal for West Sussex children.

Sadly, we have not yet been successful in getting the emergency funding we have been seeking and West Sussex schools, including Upper Beeding Primary School, remain chronically underfunded; we are all having to consider difficult steps to bridge this funding gap.

Being in one of the worst funded Local Authorities in the country, we have already taken considerable measures to be financially effective, so the further cost increases being passed on to schools hits us particularly hard. I find it seriously misleading to hear ministers continuing to state that 'school funding has been protected'; unfunded costs and stealth taxes that have been passed on to schools means that in real terms our 'per student' funding is continually getting worse.

I am dismayed that significant sums of money seem to be available for new Government plans, but the immediate and urgent needs of existing schools are not being addressed.

How can you help?

Please continue to lobby your MP. We appreciate the support we have been given by our local MP, Nick Herbert, and urge all MPs to insist that the new National Funding Formula is changed to ensure minimum, adequate funding for every school. The attached letter outlines what we are asking for in more detail.

We will also share with you shortly a user-friendly document to support parents and carers in completing the response to the official consultation on the Funding Formula, before the deadline of 22nd March. If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to contact me and thank you in advance for your time in completing the consultation if you are able to.

Please rest assured that we continue to work hard in school to provide an exceptional education for your children. However, now is the time to ensure all our voices are heard and to insist on fair funding for all West Sussex children. I greatly appreciate your help and support.

With kind regards,

Becky Linford
Headteacher
Upper Beeding Primary School