



## **Hatton School & Special Needs Centre**

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Headteacher: Mrs Adrienne Wright

**‘PROUD of the Hatton Way; LEARNING, GROWING, ACHIEVING TOGETHER’**

27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear parents and carers,

### **School Funding**

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school.

The government has said that it plans to change the way funding for pupils with more complex or severe special educational needs (‘high needs’) is allocated. This is in order to address long-standing variations in the funding of schools in different parts of the country. A consultation on the plans closed in March and the outcome should be announced soon. If the proposals go ahead, this new ‘high needs funding formula’ would be implemented from 2018 to 2019.

Since the formula has not yet been finalised, we don’t know for sure how funding for Hatton School will be affected. The government has said that no local authority will lose high needs funding under the formula. However, the government also plans to prevent local authorities from increasing the funding available for pupils with high needs by reducing the funding they allocate to mainstream provision, and vice versa.

Aside from this, school budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The senior leadership team at Hatton School has been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions about the Play Schemes and After School Clubs (please see the attached consultation) stopping the Gardening Project and a range of reductions in terms of buying resources and projects.

Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. The National Audit Office estimate a £3 billion real terms cut across all phases and in all schools. This doesn’t just affect us.

The current problem for Hatton is that for the last three years the school has received the same funding with no increase at all and yet we are facing ever increasing costs and this year have also had to pay the Government’s new Apprentice Levy.

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible. However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken.

Please be assured that we will take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children and does not impact staffing levels. We are also letting the local authority and government know just how serious the funding crisis has become.

Yours sincerely,

Adrienne Wright  
**Headteacher**

Claire Downey  
**Chair of Governors**

**Consultation with Parents and Carers about the future of the afterschool club and play scheme at Hatton School.**

For many years Hatton School has been given ' Short Breaks' funding from Social Care specifically to run the play scheme and afterschool clubs. This money is in addition to and separate from the money we are given to provide education for the children at Hatton School.

We get given a total of £40,000 in total for the two projects and every year Hatton School subsidises this with money from our school budget. Last year we gave £38,000 to cover the full costs of £78,000. We have done this so that

- the cost is low for families
- more children benefit from having access to the programmes
- We can offer more sessions.

This year we have again been allocated a total of £40,000 but because of the funding challenges that the school is facing we can no longer afford to subsidise these activities and so we need to consult families about the best way forward.

There are two options available

**First Option – Increase cost to families**

By increasing the charges to families we can keep the same number of sessions and staffing as we have in the past so there would be no reduction in the service offered.

This would cost the following

	Standard Charge	Free School Meals Pupils
Play scheme	£55 per day	£15 per day
After school club	£12 per session	£5 per session

**Second Option – Reduce the number of sessions we offer**

By keeping the charges to families exactly the same we would have to reduce the number of session we can offer.

This would mean the following

Play scheme	<p>We would still run the Easter and Summer schemes.</p> <p>We will NOT run any session in the October, February and May half terms.</p>
After School club	<p>We would have to reduce the number of sessions each week from 3 down to 2.</p> <p>Currently we run two sessions for our older KS2 pupils and one for our younger KS1 pupils.</p> <p>This would be cut to one session a week for each age group and so not as many children will get places.</p>

Please complete the section below and return it to Hatton School by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILST THIS CONSULTATION IS TAKING PLACE WE WILL HAVE TO SUSPEND THE MAY HALF TERM PLAYScheme AND SO THIS WILL NOT BE RUNNING.**

Once we have your responses I will write again informing you of the way forward.

Yours Sincerely

Adrienne Wright  
Headteacher

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**Consultation with Parents and Carers about the future of the afterschool club and play scheme at Hatton School.**

Your Child's name:

Please indicate your preference below and return this slip to Hatton School by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Option One - I am prepared to pay the increased charges to be able access to the same number of sessions for my child.	YES / NO
Option Two - I want the cost to remain the same and would accept access to fewer sessions for my child.	YES / NO