

1<sup>st</sup> April 2019



Dear Parents

### School Funding

St Anne's  
Catholic School  
&  
6<sup>th</sup> Form  
College

You will have seen coverage in the media recently showing the deep concern in schools across the country about inadequate funding. Nationally, the Governors Association and groups of Headteachers have raised awareness of the **severe financial challenges facing schools**. Unfortunately, misleading information included in some of the coverage has confused many observers and made anyone who does not have first-hand knowledge of the situation wonder what is actually true. Many schools will not be comfortable sharing financial information, which is why we are writing to you today.

**St Anne's is an outstanding, oversubscribed school with waiting lists to join all year groups.** We are the highest performing school in the city and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest performing school in the Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth area. We have repeatedly been congratulated on our excellent financial management having worked with the Government's new School Resources Management Adviser scheme and professional auditors. So, we are confident in sharing with you all that our students, staff and the entire St Anne's family have achieved all of this **despite rapidly reducing funding and spiralling externally enforced costs.**

Together with many other schools, particularly academies, we have suffered a **cut of over £1,000,000** to our General Annual Grant from the government over the past 5 years and have had to find additional sums of up to £200,000 every year to pay for **externally enforced increases** to our costs such as employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pensions contributions. Together with many other schools we are **close to the point where there is nothing left to cut.**

Royston Smith MP was able to attend a meeting St Anne's Governors invited 8 local MPs to in February. We gave him detailed information to enable him to understand the needs and interests of families he represents, and we are very grateful for his continued contact with St Anne's.

As we approach the next Comprehensive Spending Review, we need to make sure that more of our representatives understand the **reality of the situation in our schools**. We believe our representatives will listen more attentively if parents are able to make their voice heard. We have included detailed information overleaf to illustrate the seriousness of the problem together with links to the recent press coverage. You will also find a draft letter to your MP and further information concerning the national funding situation on our school website.

At St Anne's we invest in the future. All we are asking for is adequate and fair funding for our children.

Yours sincerely

**Lyn Bourne**  
Executive Headteacher

**James Rouse**  
Head of School

**Clare Fearon**  
Chair of Governors

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Head of School Mr J E J Rouse BSc(Hons), NPQSL, PQSI



## Financial Facts

- **We have £1,047,139 less, with a growing school population and fewer staff**
- Our General Annual Grant has reduced by £1,047,139 since 2013 - a cut of over 16%
- Our funding per pupil has reduced from £5,777 to £4,965 since 2013
- Sixth Form Funding has been cut by 21% per student since 2010/11
- Externally enforced additional costs have increased the cost of staffing every year
- These costs include increased employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions. In 2015/16 these costs rose by 7% and we expect costs to continue to rise by at least 2% each year. For example, this year we must find over £60,000 to meet the latest enforced increases to employer pension contributions
- Our funding does not increase to cover this cost and is not index linked
- The payment we received from the Government to 'fully fund' the recent pay rise will be £35,000 less than the actual cost
- The one off 'little extras' fund this year was welcome. We were able to afford to repair a boiler and complete work on essential health and safety projects
- In 2014 we had 128 full time equivalent (FTE) staff
- **As a result of these cuts in funding and increased costs, in 2019 we have 9 fewer FTE staff costing us nearly £400,000 more**

## Misleading Information:

- The UK Statistics Authority, a Government department, has reprimanded the DfE for their misleading use of statistics concerning school funding when they included the money spent by parents on private education and the money invested in university student loans in their claim that 'more money than ever before is being invested in education'.

## Recent Press Coverage

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/mar/30/teachers-volunteer-pay-cut-save-colleagues-jobs-furzedown-funding>

<https://oldprimaryhead.com/2019/03/29/lord-agnew-the-policies-of-inequality-and-their-impact-on-schools/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-47742543/education-cuts-half-day-on-friday-for-some-schools>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-47507587/schools-minister-nick-gibb-mp-challenged-over-funding-by-bbc-s-charlie-stayt>

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/education/2019/03/schools-are-fourth-emergency-service-meet-rebel-headmaster-fighting><https://www.ascl.org.uk/news-and-views/news-news-detail.schools-need-an-extra-5-7-billion-to-deliver-basic-expectation.html>