



*The Unity Partnership provides the best aspirational life chances to inspire the hearts and minds of our learning community*

20/03/2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

## 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 schools.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The senior leadership teams at our schools have been grappling with the funding challenges. This will ultimately lead to a number of tough decisions being made in the coming months for the next academic year.

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 recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However with increasing costs placed onto all schools the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see. The School Cuts website, analysing DfE data, projects that our schools will lose **£1,852, 334 (-55 teachers)** in total.

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. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.

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. We are also letting the local authority and government know just how serious the funding crisis has become.

We promise to let you know you in plenty of time if our budget means we'll have to take a significant decision on staffing or activities.

We will continue to work together, as a Partnership, to ensure the very best education for our children.

Yours sincerely,

*The Unity Partnership*

Vicky Phillips (CRS), Adam Sutton (MPS), Stuart McConnachie (CPS), Martyn Giddens (BPS), Dylan Davies (BACA), Mark Helstrip (Homewood School)

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