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Headteacher: Mr A Hodgson BA (Hons) PGCE

15th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Worth Less? West Sussex Schools Campaign for Fairer Funding Needs Your Help

I would like to thank parents for the huge support that they gave to the Headteachers who campaigned for improved school funding at Westminster on Friday 28th September. Over 2000 Headteachers attended this march, with many more supporting their actions.

From the emails that colleagues and I received, it is clear that parents overwhelmingly support the need for much improved investment in our schools. As soon as we receive a reply from the chancellor, we will let you know. I am sure everyone will watch with interest to see how he responds to our requests for funding during the Autumn Statement on Monday 29th October.

West Sussex Schools have been campaigning for fairer school funding as part of the Worth Less? movement. The Worth Less? campaign has always used independently sourced evidence to give strength to the campaign. Frankly, it is entirely wrong for the Department for Education (DfE) to suggest that Government spending on schools is much higher than in other comparable countries.

As you will have seen, recent headlines have highlighted that the DfE have been providing parents, and the wider public, with misleading information regarding Government spending on public funded schools. It has been reported that the DfE have inflated the figures they use by including money spent by families on university tuition fees and independent/private school fees. This adds billions of pounds to the headline figures used by the DfE to inform the public on how much they are spending on schools, when in reality these billions of pounds are unrelated to the funding received by public funded schools, such as ours.

This misrepresentation of Government school spending is not helpful and is a completely unacceptable way of defending real term cuts (8% in England since 2010). In accordance with this, the UK Statistics Authority have published a scathing letter to the DfE regarding this misrepresentation of changes in school funding and the DfE's misuse of statistics;

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/20181008_Sir_David_Norgrove_letter_to_SoS_for-Education.pdf

Headteachers across the country are demanding that the DfE apologise for their use of, and stop providing the public with, misleading information about spending on schools. It is hoped that the DfE will put all their efforts into investing adequately, and fairly, into public funded schooling and support the improved recruitment and retention of teachers.

Parents have asked how they can support the drive for improving funding. On 10th October, parent groups lobbied parliament. In addition to this, there will also be a **national day of parental action on 19th October**, for further information please use the hashtag **#parentsteachersunite** on Twitter or Facebook.

We would again like to thank you for your support and confirm that our campaign will remain reasonable and determined with a single goal of ensuring that every school and pupil receive a much better deal in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hodgson
(Headteacher)