



**HOLY TRINITY C.E.(A) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Mrs Ann MacGregor

The Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A OAA

27<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Sir Nicholas

We are writing on behalf of the Governing Body of Holy Trinity C.E.(A) Primary School, Cuckfield, to ask for your support in urging the Government to increase the funding for Local Authority education in Mid Sussex. On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September our Head Teacher, Mrs Ann MacGregor, will be marching at Westminster to protest at the lack of funds for our school. She will join with many other head teachers from across the country in an event that is unprecedented for her, and probably for many others, because she feels so strongly about the lack of resources and support available to schools at the present time. We write to support her protest.

The following are some of the difficulties and frustrations that we, as a school, are facing at the moment, and it is not exhaustive.

School budget cuts:

- We are using PTA money to purchase essentials rather than 'extras'. Without PTA support we would not be in a position to replace our aged and broken computers in the ICT suite, thus meaning we would be unable to teach the programming national curriculum.
- The school is asking parents to supply other essentials eg Pens, pencils, crayons, glue sticks etc.
- Maintained school staff pay increases, implemented by the government, have not been fully funded, and have added to the school's cost burden.
- Required maintenance of the school premises has been postponed eg. new boiler, replacement of children's toilets.

Staff:

- The morale of school staff is increasingly threatened by the real possibility of redundancy of teachers and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs)
- The school is unable to afford supply cover for teacher absence, meaning that HLTAs, LSAs and student teachers have to cover lessons.
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for staff is a rarity because we cannot afford it.

Children:

- Our SEN Coordinator spends much of her time putting together Individual Education Health and Care Plans for these children to apply for extra funding from the Local Authority. We have recently submitted three applications, all of which have been rejected and will have to be re-submitted.
- More of our LSAs are now supporting increasing numbers of children who are high need SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability). These children require 1 to 1 support with toileting, prevention of choking, mental ill health, and behaviour and learning problems. At least 20 hours support per child must come from the school budget before we can even apply for an EHCP.
- Other children in a class are missing out on their needs being supported in the light of a challenging curriculum.

Support:

- We have seen a deterioration in the support available from West Sussex County Council, which is poorly funded compared with other regions of the country.
- Reduction in special needs and mental health provision means that little support is now available from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), Speech and Language team, and the Learning and Behaviour team. There is a lengthy waiting list for such interventions.
- Increasing numbers of Head Teacher and SENCO hours are now taken up with multi agency meetings where school staff end up being the lead professional.

These difficulties are frustrating and saddening for our school staff and governors. We urgently request your help to improve our school funding, and indeed to help the other local schools in your constituency who are suffering the same problems.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely

Janice Peek

Simon Janvrin

Co-Chairs of Governors