

All Saints C of E Junior School
Emscote Infant School
Woodloes Primary School
Newburgh Primary School

The Ferncumbe C of E School
Long Itchington C of E Primary School
Westgate Primary School
Barford St Peter's CE (VA) Primary School

Bishops Itchington Primary School
Southam Primary School

23rd May 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Future of School Funding in Central Warwickshire Primary Schools

We are writing collectively as primary Head Teachers in the Central Warwickshire area. We work together to support and collaborate with each other to provide an excellent standard of education for our children.

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 each school within our consortium of local schools, have been grappling with current funding challenges, which include:

- managing the additional costs to schools of local government pension scheme contributions increasing and apprenticeship 'levy' charges (0.5% of our overall budget) being introduced;
- managing a £30 per pupil reduction in our budgets due to the removal of the Education Services Grant ;
- National policy changes to the way in which schools are to be funded (*this relates to the Early Years National Funding Formula which has an impact from the 1st April and also the National Funding Formula for all schools which is due to be implemented from 2018/19*).

For each of our schools, the impact of any future reduction in budgets is extremely concerning. **However, our schools are 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. **Therefore 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 (schoolcuts.org.uk), by analysing Department for Education data, projects that schools in Warwickshire will lose £28,094,220 in total. Warwickshire is ranked 120th out of 150 Local Authorities for funding per pupil.

Headteachers and Governors within our consortium will continue to work hard to ensure that any 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 best to prevent this.

We are determined to make our voice heard and, if you also wish to express your concerns about this unacceptable situation, request that you visit the website schoolcuts.org.uk to sign a petition to ensure that school funding does not reduce in real terms, potentially affecting your child's future education. We would also encourage you to get in touch with your local MP to ask them what they are doing to protect schools in the area.

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.

As individual school leaders, 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 have sent this letter to every family within our consortium of schools as listed at the top of the page.

Yours sincerely,

D.Cossins

All Saints CofE Juniors &
Emscote Infant

A.Delaney

Barford St Peter's CE (VA) Primary

A.Smith

Newburgh Primary

S.Morris

The Ferncumbe CofE Primary

L.Daniels

Westgate Primary

A.Mitchell

Woodloes Primary

R.Hawkins

Bishops Itchington Primary

R.Richards / P.King

Long Itchington CofE Primary

E.Longworth

Southam Primary