

24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

### Update – School Funding Issues

I wanted to contact you to about school funding. Many Headteachers in Salford are sending out the same letter. Across the county over 7000 schools have also sent a similar letter.

Sadly, I have to confirm that despite intense lobbying of the Government and Department for Education, school budgets remain extremely challenging. In short, schools are still not getting the right funding to deliver the level of education and support that is expected and that our families and children deserve.

#### Current Concerns

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8%.
- At Willow Tree that means we have lost £539 per pupil between 2015 & 2019, in total
- £599, 971 over these four years
- Class sizes are rising and it is getting harder to maintain the range of experiences and sports currently offered
- Schools support children’s emotional wellbeing, this support is being eroded due to poor levels of funding. Schools are struggling to maintain the level of support currently offered
- Often, the most vulnerable students in our schools are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they are entitled to.

These issues are not simply affecting a few schools. They are common in schools up and down the country. Headteachers are so concerned that we are all working together on this issue.

In September 2018, over 2000 Headteachers campaigned at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation. The ‘Worth Less?’ campaign group now has 64 Local Authorities and Boroughs, covering thousands of schools and millions of families. This gives a clear indication of the levels of concern felt by reasonable Headteachers in England.

We know that there is not a ‘bottomless pit’ of money and also know that many local MPs are taking a supportive approach. We must make clear, however, that the current response from the Department for Education is inadequate.



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Headteacher colleagues and I, feel fortunate that we have been so strongly supported by parents and carers as we campaign for a better level of funding for our schools and pupils. We urge you to send messages to your local MP and to the Department for Education and wider Government to ensure that matters improve.

We will continue to inform you of the facts and to campaign vigorously over coming weeks and months. In the meantime, be assured: Willow Tree's 'can-do' spirit will continue and we remain committed to offering the best education we can to our young people.

Yours sincerely

R.L.Munro

Headteacher

