

## Concerns regarding school funding – Letter ideas for Families of Hudson

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Prime Minister

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Education

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

I am writing to you to highlight the serious concerns I have about school funding in Sefton. In recent years it has become apparent that current budgets are under significant pressure, our school now has insufficient funds to maintain education provision at current standards.

The increased cost of pension and National Insurance contributions plus the proposed pay rises for teaching and non-teaching staff, sees a reduction in the amount of funding currently available to Sefton schools to support education provision by approximately £7 million. This is the equivalent of approximately 370 teaching assistants or 130 teachers.

Our school is almost a one form entry primary school, numbers are on the rise due to the extended offer the school provides through 2 year old nursery and Autism provision, the school has worked tirelessly to raise standards and market their successes. As we are not yet completely full as a whole school there is still some scope to gain further funding by continuing to increase pupil numbers, but this can only happen over time. Staff have worked very hard over the past years to make efficiency savings, negotiating hard on contracts etc. and there is very little they can do now to make any further savings. Our school has worked closely with other schools in the area as part of a funded project to look at ways savings could be made and governors are now at the stage where they feel that the school is as efficient as it possibly could be, despite being an old building, costly to run and need of repair. Our school's reserves, which have been saved to maintain and improve the school building, will be wiped out during the up and coming financial years when the new funding formula is enforced. Our concern is that the government is putting such financial pressure on small primary schools so that they will no longer be financially viable and will have to merge with larger schools to ensure greater 'efficiency' in the system. In our locality there are no schools with this capacity, causing increased burdens for families with travel.

Unfunded increases to Sefton Schools would equate to the loss of over 130 teachers across Sefton, or approximately 370 support workers. We feel that pay increases for the staff in our children's schools are fully deserved, but if they are unfunded by government, this would put schools in a position where standards would be seriously compromised.

As parents, we do not feel that the amount of funding allocated is fair to schools. The government is supposed to ensure that all schools have enough money to be sustainable, but in our case funding will be reduced in real terms, and this is the same for many schools across Sefton Local Authority. **My child's school will not be able to maintain current levels of staffing or resources and the quality of our children's education will suffer as a result.**

We urge the government to reconsider the amount of money allocated, ensuring that schools have sufficient funding to give children access to a sufficiently staffed, sufficiently resourced education.

Yours sincerely,