



**Hudson Primary School and Children's Centre**  
*Everyone Experiences Excellence*  
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**National Funding for all Primary Schools**

4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

We are writing to you again as a group of Headteachers because we continue to be very concerned about the effect of insufficient funding on Sefton schools. When we wrote last year regarding the proposals for a National Funding Formula, your letters really helped to urge positive changes to the proposals. Schools however, have now been given indicative budgets for the next two years and it is clear from these figures that the vast majority of Sefton schools will not be able to maintain current levels of staffing or resources.

Schools are likely to be expected to fund pay increases of both teaching and non-teaching staff with little or no increase in funding from central government. This means that by 2020 schools will have had to absorb around £7m of additional costs due to pay awards, pension, national insurance and other changes. This is the equivalent of approximately 370 teaching assistants or 130 teachers across Sefton.

We understand that the government has not officially made cuts to the overall education budget but school funding has not increased in real terms since 2010/11. Time and time again, when concerns are raised about lack of funding in schools, the response from ministers is that education funding is at an all-time high. Schools, however, have had to find money for increases in inflation each year, significant increases in utility costs and have also been burdened with the additional costs for services that used to be provided free of charge to schools by the LA. Due to funding cuts to the council, the LA now requires maintained schools to pay for these services. Also, some schools now face having to pay the apprenticeship levy, again with no extra funding. The pay increases that the Government is negotiating for 2018/19 are an additional financial burden that is going to be added to the long list of financial pressures that schools have faced over the last seven years.

**Schools across Sefton have already had to lose staff as a result of insufficient funding. We want to make sure parents are aware, when they are informed that staff are leaving, that this is often due to funding restrictions on schools. Parents also need to be aware that, if staff are leaving for other reasons, often lack of funding will force governing bodies into a position where they cannot replace these members of staff.**

We need your help to urge the government to ensure that schools have adequate funding to give children access to a sufficiently staffed, sufficiently resourced education. We are sending out a hard copy of the attached letter for parents, if they wish, to sign and return to school so that we can pass them on to our MP, **Bill Esterson**. The letter can also be personalised and sent to the schools' ministers directly at the addresses provided on the letter if you so wish. Hard copy responses will need to be returned to school by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May**.

We believe that your children receive an outstanding education in our school and we urge you to help us to ensure that we can continue to provide this.

Yours sincerely

Niki Craddock, Headteacher



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