



12th April 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed national schools funding formula and the negative impact it would have on Haringey's very successful schools.

Almost all of our schools – at both secondary and primary level - are rated as good or outstanding, and we have some of the top-performing secondary schools in the country. It's not just Haringey: schools across all of London achieve strong results nationally, and this is the result of the investment in schools over the past two decades.

Most importantly, children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to do well in London than anywhere else in the country. In Haringey, looked after children have one of the highest GCSE pass rates in the country. This success is as a result of ensuring there is a level of funding that reflects the needs of the area and the strong partnership that exists between schools, parents, teachers and the local authority.

As a result of the proposed national schools funding formula, all of Haringey's primary and secondary schools are set to lose significant amounts of funding. Furthermore, the new formula is being brought in at a time when schools are already facing significant financial challenges. The National Audit Office have recognised the real terms cuts faced by schools in recent years, caused by a range of factors including the failure to increase the schools budget in line with inflation, rising costs, and the imposition of increased national insurance and pensions contributions.

The funding crisis facing our schools is likely to result in reduced numbers of teachers and support staff, increased class sizes and less curriculum choice. The success of the past decade, and the hard work of schools, teachers, support staff, governors, parents and children, will be jeopardised.

The proposed funding formula cannot be 'fair' if its effect is to penalise schools in Haringey and across London, significantly affecting the education of around one and a half million children and young people.

This is why we are asking you to make a commitment that **no school will financially lose out from the introduction of the national schools funding formula**. This would only require an additional £335 million per year – just one percent of the entire Department for Education's schools budget.

We also have concerns that the deprivation factors under the proposed national funding formula (pupils who receive free school meals and IDACI bands) will attract less funding per pupil than our current local formula factors. For example under Haringey's current formula, pupils from families within IDACI Band C attract an additional £430 of funding, but under the proposed new national formula's weighting this decreases to just £360; this is 20% decreased weighting.

Haringey is the 30th most deprived local authority in the country under the Index of Multiple

Deprivation (from which the IDACI bands are derived from). Through decreasing the weighting of deprivation factors in the proposed national funding formula, the Government are in effect shifting funding away from schools in the borough which have pupils from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

We urge you to reconsider and ensure that no school will financially lose out from the introduction of the national schools funding formula. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



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Leader of Haringey Council



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