

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Mass Headteacher Action – 28 September 2018**

On Friday 28 September, a group of headteachers from across Cornwall will be joining hundreds of other Headteachers from across the country in support of a mass event intended to gain much improved funding for all schools. This letter is being sent to parents of children across England.



Those headteachers that attend will have the full support of their Governing Bodies/Trusts as schools continue to champion the best possible funding for all of our schools. They will remain steadfastly determined, relentlessly reasonable and act without any political bias. These have been the hallmarks of the campaign work to date.

You will be aware of the challenges that schools up and down the country are facing. A mixture of rising costs and stresses on other support services has meant that for many years we have been being asked “to do more with less”.

Under a challenging period of austerity for the Government it is understood that there is not a bottomless pit of money. Accordingly, schools have played their part to work even harder and with greater efficiency on behalf of the children and families that they serve.

It is clear to all Headteachers, however, that matters are unsustainable. Frequently, we do not have enough money to meet the demands placed on our schools. On the ground, services and resources are cut to the bone and class sizes are increasing. At times, schools are even having to prop up our budgets with monies that should be targeted at those students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, or those that have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Under the umbrella of the campaign group ‘Worth Less?’ Headteachers have shone a light on the funding difficulties that we are facing. It is acknowledged that the Government should be given credit for introducing a new National Funding Formula. Unfortunately, however, the formula itself is not adequately resourced/funded and therefore budgets remain in an unacceptably poor state.

In July, the Institute for Fiscal Studies echoed what has been said for a long time and confirmed that, **in real terms**, school budgets have been slashed by 8% since 2010.

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/13143>

It is simply not good enough for the Government to state that “more money is spent on schools than ever before”, when independent evidence clearly states that in terms, this is simply not the case.

Headteachers will gather at Downing Street to insist that the chancellor and his colleagues at the Department for Education use the upcoming autumn statement to invest properly in our schools and your child’s education. Many of the real terms cuts to our budgets should be reversed and urgent investment is required for SEND and post-16 budgets.

The support enjoyed from parents and carers has been very welcome and you will continue to be updated on all forthcoming actions. The group are determined to campaign until a much better and fairer settlement is reached in order to support your child/children and the future prosperity of the country as a whole.

Yours faithfully



Dr Jeremy Plumb  
Acting Headteacher  
Torpoint Community College