

# ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

## Re: 'Funding crisis' and the impact on St Chad's.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to share information and to show you how you could write to your MP if you feel strongly enough about the contents of this letter. This letter can be found on our website under letters.

We are writing to you in order to share the current financial situation that schools within our area are facing and the impact that this may have over the next few years. These concerns are relevant for a significant number of schools in South Gloucestershire. This letter has been developed with the Headteachers of schools within the Patchway, Stoke Lodge and Little Stoke area of South Gloucestershire, all of which lie within a single constituency.

We wish to share with you the current financial situation schools within our area are facing and hope that you will support your school and the children in our area by taking action to help change the current government proposals.

You will have probably heard in the media about the funding crisis facing schools. The reasons for this include an increased payment that schools have to make towards National Insurance Costs, Pension Contributions and the new Apprenticeship Levy, as well as ongoing inflation.

The Government states that there is the same amount of funding for schools in the system and in some reports have said there is the most there has ever been in the system. There are also many more children than there have ever been in our schools. With higher costs and significantly more school age pupils in the system, it is not possible to provide the same quality of education with a previously fixed amount of money.

The National Audit Office estimates that by 2020 schools will have experienced a reduction in income by 8% per pupil.

South Gloucestershire remains the 6th worst funded local authority for education in the UK, receiving in some cases up to £2000 less than other nearby authorities *per pupil*.

In 2018 the planned Fair Funding Formula should have significantly improved matters for some schools in South Gloucestershire. The reality is that a number of schools in this area actually end up with less money and some are hardly better off.

We do not understand how this can possibly be deemed right.

We believe it takes schools back to funding levels last seen in 2006. As a result, schools across South Gloucestershire are now forced to consider a wide range of ways to reduce costs. Key changes that may take place are:



- a reduction in time for school leaders to prepare and plan improvements for your children;
- an increase in class sizes and a reduction in the number of teachers employed;
- an end to learning intervention programmes;
- a reduction in support roles across the school e.g. pastoral support, family support, administration and finance, technician, lunchtime supervisors, teaching assistants, cover supervisors etc;
- increased pressure on staff leading to a subsequent reduction in time staff are able to spend on 'goodwill' activities;
- at secondary level, a loss of programmes of study and courses available, which will reduce choice for learners based on affordable class sizes;
- a deterioration in the fabric of our buildings;
- a lowering of the quality of learning resources for your children; and
- a reduction in specialist curriculum provision such as sports coaches and specialist teachers.

We do not want to see this for the children in our schools. For many of our schools, there are very difficult decisions to be made by September. This impacts all of the children in our school and local to us and will do for a very long time.

Current likely changes for St Chad's by September include:

- A reduction in Teaching Assistant time to the equivalence of 2 days support a week,  
Plus a reduction in spending on:
  - equipment,
  - general resources,
  - building maintenance,
  - ICT,
  - books, alongside
  - decreased support for SEN,
  - a decrease in support programmes offered,
  - a decrease in spending on enrichment opportunities, and
  - a reduction in spending on staff development.

This will have the outcome of:

- less support for pupils who are struggling with a more demanding curriculum, which means that fewer will reach the required standard,
- fewer of the 'nice to have / nice to do',
- a significant impact on morale at all levels,
- less ability for school leadership team to support/develop staff and to support other schools both locally and more widely.

We need your support in raising awareness and campaigning with us for more funding. The most efficient way of helping us to raise awareness is to contact Jack Lopresti, MP. An email or letter sharing how you feel about this situation will help. A template is [here](#) if you would like to use it.

E-mail: [jack.lopresti.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jack.lopresti.mp@parliament.uk)

Jack Lopresti MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Alternatively, you may wish to sign this petition <https://www.change.org/p/stop-unfair-school-funding-in-south-gloucestershire>

We thank you for your time and continued support.

If you would like to know more, you may like to read:

[https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/mar/07/headteachers-write-to-parents-over-school-funding-and-job-cuts?CMP=tw\\_t\\_gu](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/mar/07/headteachers-write-to-parents-over-school-funding-and-job-cuts?CMP=tw_t_gu)

Yours sincerely,

Darren Brown on behalf of the Governors and staff of St Chad's Primary School.

