

Information from Head Teachers in Hampshire National Action – 28 September 2018



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 schools have been asked to 'do more with less'. On Friday 28 September, Head Teachers from across Hampshire will be joining hundreds of other Head Teachers from across the country in support of a mass event intended to gain much improved funding for all schools. Head Teachers who will be in attendance will have the full support of their Governing Bodies/Trusts as they continue to champion the best possible funding for all schools. The campaign remains steadfastly determined, relentlessly reasonable and act without any political or union bias. These have been the hallmarks of the campaign work to date.

Head Teachers 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. The campaign believes that many of the real terms cuts to school's budgets should be reversed and urgent investment is required for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and post-16 budgets.

Under a challenging period of austerity for the Government the campaign understands that there is not a bottomless pot of money. Accordingly, schools have played their part to work even harder and with greater efficiency on behalf of the children and families that we serve. However, the campaign recognises that matters are unsustainable. Schools do not have enough money to meet the demands placed on them. On the ground, services and resources are marginalised and class sizes in many schools are increasing.

Under the umbrella of the campaign group 'Worth Less?', Head Teachers have shone a light on the funding difficulties that schools are facing. The campaign acknowledges that the Government should be given credit for introducing a new National Funding Formula. Unfortunately, however, the formula itself is not adequately resourced or funded and therefore school budgets remain in an unacceptably poor state.

In July, the Institute for Fiscal Studies echoed what the campaign have been saying 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>

The campaign believe that 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 real terms, this is simply not the case. This has nothing to do with teachers' pay. Children in Hampshire are very poorly funded. If you compare the best funded areas of the country, Hampshire schools receive anything up to £3,000 less per pupil! These sorts of differences affect the number of staff who can be employed, the quality of equipment we can buy for your children and the longer term effects are a huge concern.

'Worth Less?' campaign is 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.