



**Garfield Primary**  
Today's children, tomorrow's future.

17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

### **School Funding**

You may have seen a number of stories in the press around school funding.

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However with increasing costs placed onto all schools the new formula will not bring the benefits that we had hoped to see. The School Cuts website ([www.schoolcuts.org](http://www.schoolcuts.org)), analysing DfE data, projects that our school will be significantly affected.

### **Garfield Primary is predicted to lose £203,103 or £467 per pupil, equivalent to 5 teachers by 2019**

We will have less money because school budgets have been cut by 8-10%. At the same time over the last few years, schools have had to meet the costs of pay rises, increased pension and National Insurance costs and 'taxes' such as the Apprenticeship Levy.

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible. However, rising costs and a reduced budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this. At Garfield, we are committed to ensuring that all of our pupils have an outstanding education and our Garfield vision and values remain critical to all we do. We are genuinely concerned that the scale of the financial cuts will impact on our pupils.

The impact so far has been as follows:

- Staffing costs have increased around 8% over the last 2 years (1% pay increase, National Insurance contribution increase and pension contribution increases). This has meant that the school has had to meet these extra costs with no increase in funding.
- Reduced services from the Local Authority due to cuts at LA level means additional costs to our school including education psychology, training for staff, intervention support, staff absence insurance [cancelled from April 2018], maternity scheme [cancelled from April 2017] and school improvement services.

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- Changes to the SEND funding in 2017 will mean less funding for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan, meaning the school will have to make up the shortfall.
- The new government apprentice levy from April 2017 will mean the schools will have to pay up to £15,000 with little hope in using that amount of training. We have one apprentice at present.

Our school is not alone. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has shown that more than half of school leaders felt that their budget would be untenable by 2018/19. The National Audit Office estimate a £3 billion real terms cut across all phases and in all schools. This doesn't just affect us.

We need your help.

Headteachers across England are making their concerns known to the government but we do not feel we are being heard. If they won't listen to us, perhaps they will listen to you – the parents, families and carers of the children impacted by these cuts – expressing concern for the education of your child. We need your help to show local and central government that school funding is in crisis.

We will, of course, be working with governors to ensure we do whatever we can to limit the worst effects of the cuts and will also be lobbying our local MP, David Burrowes, so that he is aware of the negative impact such cuts will have on our schools.

The Governments consultation period ends on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March but the parent led campaign is gathering momentum and was featured on Channel 4 news recently. For more information please log on the [www.fairfundingforschools.org](http://www.fairfundingforschools.org)

I would like to thank you for reading these concerns and we will keep you updated on the decisions we make.

Yours sincerely

**Karen Khwaja**  
**Headteacher**

*Keith Carrano*

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**Chair of Governors**