



Nantwich Education Partnership

Working together for all the children in Nantwich

Dear Parents and Carers

As many of you are aware, the Government is consulting on proposals for changes to school funding that will result in a £9.3 million reduction to funding for education across Cheshire East. These changes will see 131 out of 146 Cheshire East schools receive a reduction in funding.

As a partnership of schools across Nantwich, we feel compelled to write to all our families to provide you with examples of how this proposed funding cut will have a significant detrimental effect on the provision of education across Nantwich for all of our children.

The Department for Education has stated that one of its main aims for a National Funding Formula is to address funding inequalities across the country. Cheshire East has historically been one of the lowest funded local authorities in England. The current proposals will see children in our schools receiving £344 less per pupil when compared to the rest of the North West. Cheshire East will also continue to be underfunded compared to all similar authorities nationally, meaning our schools will not have sufficient funding to provide the basic minimum education for children across Nantwich.

For example, schools will lose an average of 2.1% per pupil as a result of these proposals. This will inevitably lead to schools being required to make significant adjustments including possible class size increases, teacher and teaching assistant cuts, a significant reduction in the amount of support that we can provide for individuals and groups of pupils and narrowing of curriculum options with subjects such as music and the arts being marginalised.

These proposals are in contrast to the DFE's aims and will increase inequalities across regions, meaning that children in our schools will not have the same opportunities as children in other similar schools and local areas.

We recognise that many of you will want to respond to the Government's consultation. This is available at:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-funding-reform-2/>

The Consultation is open until 22nd March 2017 and we would urge as many parents and carers as possible to respond. We are aware that the consultation questions are not presented in a particularly accessible way. Please be aware that ALL responses will be considered including any part responses. Parents and carers do not, therefore, need to respond to every question in the consultation. We would suggest that the first 4 questions are responded to as a minimum. The remaining questions can be left blank for submission – part completed responses will still be counted.

We thank you for your ongoing support and understanding through this challenging time for us all.

Yours sincerely

Nantwich Partnership Primary Headteachers