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Farmor's School
AN ACADEMY

23rd February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing concerning recent media coverage about school funding, including local press coverage which has quoted figures relating to Farmor's School. The information presented is often incomplete or does not represent the national picture relating to school funding well. Therefore I feel it necessary to provide you with an accurate picture.

The core funding for primary and secondary schools has been 'frozen' in cash-terms. However, there are three factors which mean that schools across the country will be significantly worse off.

1. The Government is cutting the Education Services Grant (ESG) by 75%, as George Osborne announced in the 2015 Autumn Statement. This grant is provided so that Academies can purchase services which used to be provided by local authorities.
2. Inflation for schools will amount to 8.7% over the lifetime of this Parliament (this figure is in "Financial sustainability of schools" published by the National Audit Office on 14 December 2016). One of the reasons for this significant increase in costs is a rise in the National Insurance and pension contribution schools are required to pay to Government.
3. The national funding formula due to be introduced in April 2018 (as proposed by the Secretary of State on Wednesday 14 December 2016) will redistribute funding to address the current inequalities between the funding for students in different parts of the country.

The combined effect of these factors is a reduction in real-terms funding for schools of around £3bn a year by 2020 (www.schoolcuts.co.uk). This equates to £477 per pupil in secondary schools and £339 in primary schools each year. This is in addition to significant reductions in Sixth Form funding which have already been made, therefore 11-18 schools in particular are under pressure.

In addition to the national pressures, the new funding formula will mean almost £0.5m less funding for Gloucestershire secondary schools, despite the county being one of the worst funded in England. Farmor's School would lose a further 2.8% of its funding. The main reason for this fall is that more education spending is to be directed towards schools in areas of high deprivation.

I hope this provides a useful summary of the complex funding changes. If you would like to know more I would suggest searching online for 'school funding'. The Guardian and BBC in particular have covered these matters fully and accurately.



Whilst this all sounds bleak, I would like to provide some reassurance to parents. Farmor's has never been a cash-rich school but none-the-less continues to thrive. Despite recent falls in funding, we have improved examination results, extended the range of extra-curricular activities and maintained a high level of care for every student. We balance the books each year and have our finances under tight control. I am confident that we can continue to provide an excellent education for your children.

I am working closely alongside my colleagues locally and nationally to make the case for both fair and sufficient school funding. However, this will not distract me from my priority which is to run a good school which we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Evans

Headteacher