



# FAIR FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

2019

To all parents and carers in Bath and North East Somerset,

## BANES SCHOOL FUNDING CRISIS

We are writing to you as a group of concerned head teachers and chief executive officers.

You may have seen coverage in the national and local media about the situation with schools funding. This is directly affecting our schools now. Schools in Bath and NE Somerset (BANES) are experiencing unprecedented cuts to school budgets. Between 2013/14 and 2018/19 spending per child in BANES schools is down in real terms by -8.8% in Bath Constituency and -6.7% in NE Somerset<sup>1</sup>; while pupil numbers and costs have gone up.

Our priority is to provide your children with the best education we can, and we are working hard with our teams to cope. But we are reaching breaking point and we are now being forced to take really tough decisions. The steps we are taking vary from school to school, but the themes are:

- Bigger class sizes
- Fewer teaching assistants and other support staff (e.g. pastoral staff, mentors)
- Inadequate support for children – especially as support services have suffered similar severe cuts and / or face massive increases in demand e.g. Child and Mental Health services
- The inability to fully meet the needs of children with additional needs in mainstream schools who rely on school (and external service) support
- Low or no funding for equipment, training and activities to promote a broad and balanced curriculum

As head teachers and chief executive officers, we have been cautious about communicating directly with you about the challenges we face (we cannot be seen to be political and it's difficult to highlight individual challenges when our schools' future depends on attracting new pupils).

But we feel that the situation is now so dire, we need to find a way of making politicians listen and we are asking for your help. Your voices, as parents and carers, will be powerful in calling attention to the issues, because politicians will listen to parents and carers.

If you would like to support a BANES-wide campaign, led by parents and carers - and supported by head teachers and chief executive officers - you can take the following actions:

- **Save the date – June 8<sup>th</sup>!** Pupils, parents, carers, school staff and head teachers are coming together on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June to hold a “Protest Picnic” on the Royal Crescent to highlight our support for BANES Schools and draw some much needed attention to the crisis in our schools. We are meeting in Queens Square Bath at 12:00 and marching to the Royal Crescent for a picnic.
- **Signing the online petition:** you can find it here <http://chnq.it/qG5dqrXn5D>
- **Joining the BANES parents action group:** see Fair Funding for All Schools – BANES Facebook group and our website: [www.ffas-banes.co.uk](http://www.ffas-banes.co.uk)
- **Spreading the word:** do you want to be the school contact for BANES parents campaign group? Do you know anyone who could represent us from other schools in BANES? Get in touch with: [Kevin.Burnett@nahtofficials.org.uk](mailto:Kevin.Burnett@nahtofficials.org.uk) [Branch Secretary of the National Association for Head Teachers in BANES] or via the Facebook page
- **If you want more information** contact: [Kevin.Burnett@nahtofficials.org.uk](mailto:Kevin.Burnett@nahtofficials.org.uk) or [kirstiedive@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kirstiedive@yahoo.co.uk)

<sup>1</sup> House of Commons Library – Constituency data on School funding  
[<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/social-policy/education/schools/constituency-data-schools-funding/>]

**Thank you** for your concern and action on behalf of all our children.

Yours sincerely,

**Palladian Trust:**

Tim Withers (CEO)  
Oldfield Park Juniors  
Ralph Allen School  
Combe Down  
Oldfield Park Infants  
St. Martin's Garden  
St. Philip's  
Widcombe Jnrs.  
Widcombe Infants

**Wellsway MAT:**

Andrea Arlidge (CEO)  
Chandag Junior School  
Chandag Infant School  
Saltford CE Primary School  
St. John's CE Primary School (Keynsham)  
The Bath Studio School  
IKB Academy  
Wellsway School  
Aspire Academy

**MSNP:**

Alun Williams (CEO)  
Damian Knollys – Peasedown St. John Primary  
John Snell – Welton Primary  
Alun Randell – Midsomer Norton Primary  
Mark Everett – Writhlington School  
Bruce Hain - Mendip Studio School  
Ruth Noall - St Julians Church School and  
Shoscombe Church School  
Liz Ennew – Clutton Primary  
Dan Turull - Farrington Gurney Primary  
Gareth Griffith - High Littleton  
Kerrie Courtier - Longvernal Primary  
Claire Mirams - St. John's (MSN)  
Simon Mills – Westfield Primary  
Michelle Parsons - Trinity Church School and  
Dundry CE Primary  
Andrew Davies - Beechen Cliff School  
Gordon Green - Norton Hill School  
Jo Postlethwaite - Somervale School

**Bath Spa University**

Pat Black - Teacher Training

**Standalone Academies**

Ben Hewett - Chew Stoke Church School  
Emma Yates – Hayesfield  
Steve Mackay – Oldfield School

**Bath & Wells Diocesan MAT:**

Philip Bowditch (CEO)  
Thomas Brewer – Bathampton  
Sally Jefferies – Batheaston  
Karen Sykes - Bathford  
Kevin Purkiss – Bathwick St. Mary  
Andrew Wishart – Freshford  
Jayne Rochford-Smith - St. Andrew's  
Joe Beament - St. Saviour's Juniors  
Ed Harker - St. Saviour's Infants  
Andy Bowman - St. Stephen's Primary  
Clare Greene - St. Michael's Juniors

**Lighthouse Trust:**

Gary Lewis (CEO)  
Dieter Cook – Bishop Sutton Primary and Stanton  
Drew Primary  
Gareth Beynon – Chew Valley School

**Maintained School HTs:**

Andy Tarrant - St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Nicola Smith - St. Nicholas Primary  
Julie Hogan - Paulton Infants School  
George Samios - Twerton Infants & Nursery School  
Carl Hornsby – Whitchurch Primary  
Gill Kennaugh – Newbridge Primary  
Grant Swarbrooke – Swainswick Primary  
Barnaby Ash – St. Mark's School  
Steve Gumm – St. Keyna Primary  
Cathie Lampert – St. Mary's Primary, Writhlington  
Alice Brown – St. Mary's Primary, Timsbury  
Angela Bennett – St. John's Catholic Primary  
Ann Cusack – St. Gregory's Catholic College, Bath  
Chris Cannings - Castle Primary School  
Hannah Maggs - Cameley CofE Primary School  
Annie Spencer - Chew Magna Primary School  
Warrick Barton - Pensford Primary School

**Bath and Mendip Partnership Trust:**

David Gregory (CEO)  
Anne Bull - Abbot Alphege Academy and WASPS  
Darren Roberts - Farmborough Church School  
Emily Massey - Fosse Way School  
Julie Player - Marksbury CofE Primary School  
Georgina Scott - Moorlands Schools Federation  
(Infant and Primary School) :  
Sue Adams - Roundhill Primary School