

# Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



South Street  
Isleworth  
Middlesex TW7 7EE  
Tel: 020 8560 7166  
Fax: 020 8232 8820  
[office@smi.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:office@smi.hounslow.sch.uk)  
[www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk)

Dear Parents

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

## **School Funding**

You will have seen the ongoing stories in the press around school funding and you may have seen our banner on the school fence. There have been worrying headlines and we felt it important that we let you know, as far as we are able at this stage, how this will affect our school.

School budgets across the country have been under pressure for some time. The Governors and senior leadership team at St Mary's has been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made for this financial year. We have asked you for donations to fund pens, pencils and other items. We have not continued with the Wider Music tuition in years 3,4 and 5 and we have drastically reduced our involvement in the Enabling Enterprise initiative. We have cut £24,000 from our curriculum budget in order to balance the whole budget.

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.

The recent headlines have been caused by a proposed new funding formula for schools, designed to create a fairer allocation. However the majority of the shortage we are facing comes from increased pension and National Insurance contributions taken from our yearly budgets starting in April 2015.

The School Cuts website, analysing DfE data, projects we will lose £382 per pupil or £130,000 (see [schoolcuts.org.uk](http://schoolcuts.org.uk)) in total. This figure does not include additional losses due to retention over £100 per child by Hounslow over the last 2 years to fund High Needs Special Needs across the borough. It also does not include expansion funding restrictions applied by Hounslow; we are now only funded for 27 pupils in each new class and at only 90% of the total.

We will work hard to ensure that cuts have the least impact on teaching possible.

**However, rising costs and a frozen budget mean that tough decisions will have to be taken. We cannot guarantee that such cuts will not impact on teaching, the length of the school week and/or staffing, despite doing our utmost to prevent this.**

Please be assured that we will take the utmost care with budgets, to ensure all the money we have is spent effectively on your children's education. We are also letting the local authority and government know just how serious the funding crisis has become.

We promise to let you know you in plenty of time if our budget means we'll have to take a significant decision on staffing or activities or the length of the school week. We will consult with you if we decide to make redundancies or shorten the school week.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqui Corley

Chair of Governors

Farley Marsh

Headteacher