

SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL



SUCCEEDING, ENJOYING, BELONGING

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Dear Parent or Carer,

School Funding

We are writing to you to highlight the funding challenges facing our school. You may have seen a number of stories in the media about this issue and we wanted to tell you how your child's school is affected.

In recent years it has become apparent that current budgets are unsustainable. The governing board and senior leadership team at this school have been grappling with the funding challenges, leading to a number of tough decisions being made. In financial planning we are having to choose between investment in maintaining our facilities and continuing the level of support given to children in small groups which is central to our strategy for ensuring that all our children make the progress they should. This year we will have to reduce spend on ICT investment and on buildings improvement to keep staffing at a level which we feel to be appropriate to meet our pupils' needs.

The move to a National Funding Formula for schools will not bring the benefits to our school that we had hoped to see. The government says that the schools' budget, that is, the pot of money allocated to schools, has been 'protected' which means we are getting the same amount of money as last year. Unfortunately other costs have gone up in the meantime. We call this a real terms cut. Local authority funding has also been reduced, which means that their services and support which we relied on in the past are no longer available to us or have to be purchased using existing funds.

Funding pressures are being felt across all phases and in all schools, not just ours. Yet the Department for Education claims that schools can find £3bn further savings by 2019/20. In the future, we cannot guarantee that such measures will not impact on teaching, despite doing our utmost to prevent this. While we work hard at SJB to ensure that financial pressures have as little impact on teaching as possible, rising costs and having to do more with the same amount of money means that many tough decisions have been made.

If you are concerned about how schools are funded and would like to do something about it, please write to your MP by going to: www.writetothem.com. Tell your MP that the overall size of the schools budget is not enough and that it needs to be increased in the autumn budget.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Janet Heffernan, Chair of Governors
Miss Helen Pemberton, Headteacher