

HERMITAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLMES CHAPEL



Hermitage Drive
Holmes Chapel
Cheshire
CW4 7NP

Tel: 01477 532838

admin@hermitage.cheshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs H Ross

Dear Parents,

I am writing to enlist your support on an issue which is crucial to our school, indeed all schools across Cheshire East. Schools are funded on a per-pupil basis and this amount is calculated using a formula, which, once set, is the same for all pupils in a Local Authority. The current formula creates a huge variance in the amount awarded to fund each pupil's education across the various Local Authorities in England. Cheshire East is currently one of the five worst funded Local Authorities in England.

At the end of last year, the Government announced plans to consult on a new National Fairer Funding formula which had the explicit aim of ensuring a fairer more balanced formula for all students across the country. I had hoped that, in this review of the budget arrangements, we would benefit. Unfortunately, I am writing to inform you that the formula that the Government has offered for consultation leaves Cheshire East schools, including ours, even poorer funded than we have been. **Under new proposals, Cheshire East becomes the worst funded Local Authority. In simple terms, the money offered for a child's education in Cheshire East is the lowest amount anywhere in England.** The proposals will result in a £9.3 million reduction to funding for education across Cheshire East, with 131 out of 146 schools seeing a reduction in funding.

All schools in Cheshire East are currently working together, with the full support of the local authority, to challenge these proposals. A delegation has met with the Minister, Nick Gibb MP who has given a commitment to consider the minimum level of funding required to deliver a good education and consider some historic anomalies which have resulted in this potential reduction in funding.

We ask for your support in the matter and would urge you to respond directly to the government's consultation. The consultation is available at <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/>. I appreciate that the consultation is complicated and the questions can be difficult to decipher so Cheshire East Headteachers are putting together some guidance and I will write to you again in late February with some key points which you may wish to use to form the basis of your reply. You have until 22 March 2017 to respond to the consultation.

All schools and the local authority are committed to ensure children in Cheshire East have the same opportunities as children in similar schools and local authorities across the country.

I appreciate your support and understanding on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher

