



3rd March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Funding Cuts for Schools

You may have heard in the news about what the government has called the National Funding Formula, which will result in a redistribution of funding, by taking money from some schools' budgets to give more to others. In the past, schools have been funded at different levels. This may have been unfair, although some of the reasons why London has been funded at a higher level than other areas were the higher cost of living here and the additional needs inner city areas have.

All Southwark schools will be adversely affected by these cuts. It has been estimated that by 2019 **St James the Great will lose £199,163, or £986 per pupil, which is the equivalent of 4 teachers.** Clearly this level of cuts will have a huge impact on the standard of education we can provide. London schools have demonstrated how higher levels of funding impact on educational standards as London schools used to be some of the lowest attaining in the country, but since better funding have become among the highest. It seems unthinkable that our children will not be able to continue with the standard of education that they are used to.

Obviously myself, the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors of St. James the Great will do everything in our power to minimise the impact of the cuts, and I am working with other headteachers to find ways to lobby on behalf of Southwark schools, and St James the Great in particular. However, it would be very powerful if parents were to also express their feelings and concerns about this. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Sign the on-line petition on <https://southwarkfairfunding.wordpress.com/>
- Read the leaflet that will be given to you outside the school gates in the next few weeks
- Write a letter to Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education, to express your concerns (suggested wording is on the reverse side of this letter).
- Attend meetings in March with the local MPs to hear more about the situation and put forward your views (details will be put in the newsletter when they are available, but they will be next week)

Please ask me about this if you would like more information. I hope you will be able to add to the growing voice of concern about how this will impact on our children.

Yours sincerely

Denis O'Regan
Head of School

Right Honourable Justine Greening MP
House of Commons,
London
SW1A 0AA

greeningj@parliament.uk

Dear Ms Greening,

My child's teacher has made me aware of serious concerns about school funding and how these will impact on my child's school, St James the Great Catholic Primary school in Southwark. I am shocked that the school is predicted to lose £199,163, the equivalent of 4 teachers.

As a parent, I want my child to have the support and resources necessary to continue to receive a good education. I am very concerned to hear that this may be under threat. I hope the government will show that it values education by ensuring that all schools receive the financial support they need. I am aware that some schools will benefit from the National Funding Formula, but the current proposals will not improve the system unless the funding put into the system is sufficient for all schools.

I would ask you, as a matter of urgency, to call on the Chancellor Philip Hammond to provide more money for our schools.

Yours sincerely

Parent