



24 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

***Mass Headteacher Action – 28 September 2018***

I am making contact to let you know that on Friday 28 September 2018, I will be joining hundreds of other headteachers, including the two other headteachers from Brentwood Academies Trust, from across the country in support of a mass event intended to gain much improved funding for all schools.

Headteachers will have the full support of their Governing Bodies and Trusts as we continue to champion the best possible funding for all our schools. I will remain steadfastly determined, relentlessly reasonable and act without any political bias. These have been the hallmarks of our campaign work to date.

You will be aware of the challenges that schools up and down the country are facing. A mixture of rising costs and stresses on other support services has meant that for many years we have been being asked "to do more with less". In 2012/13 St Martin's total funding was £8.8m. This year it is £8.1m.

Under a challenging period of austerity for the government we understand that there is not a bottomless pit of money. Accordingly, schools have played their part to work even harder and with greater efficiency on behalf of the children and families that we serve.

It is clear to all headteachers, however, that matters are unsustainable. Frequently, we do not have enough money to meet the demands placed on our schools. On the ground, services and resources are cut to the bone and class sizes are increasing. At times, some schools but thankfully not St Martin's, are even having to prop up our budgets with monies that should be targeted at those students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds, or those that have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Under the umbrella of the campaign group 'Worth Less?', headteachers have shone a light on the funding difficulties that we are facing. We acknowledge that the Government should be given credit for introducing a new National Funding Formula. Unfortunately, however, the formula itself is not adequately resourced or funded and therefore our budgets remain in an unacceptably poor state.

In July, the Institute for Fiscal Studies echoed what we have been saying for a long time and confirmed that, **in real terms**, school budgets have been cut by 8% since 2010.

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/13143>

It is simply not good enough for the Government to state that “more money is spent on schools than ever before”, when independent evidence clearly states that in real terms, this is simply not the case.

Headteachers will gather at Downing Street to insist that the chancellor and his colleagues at the Department for Education use the upcoming autumn statement to invest properly in our schools and your child’s education. Many of the real terms cuts to our budgets should be reversed and urgent investment is required for SEND and post-16 budgets.

The support that the campaign has received from parents and carers has been very welcome and we will continue to update you on all of our forthcoming actions. We are determined to campaign until a much better and fairer settlement is reached in order to support all children and the future prosperity of the country as a whole.

Yours faithfully



Mike O'Sullivan  
**Headteacher**

