



Learning Community 2
c/o Southcott Lower School
Bideford Green
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire LU7 2UA

20th March 2017

Re: School Funding

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have recently read or heard reports in the national and local media regarding funding for schools. We, the schools within Learning Community 2 (LC2), wish to share with you some of our concerns around the funding pressures facing our schools.

As one of the lowest funded local authorities, Central Bedfordshire has been campaigning for a fairer settlement to bring the county funding in-line with, or at least closer to, the national average. As a result of this and campaigning by other low funded authorities, the Government committed to creating a national fairer funding formula and opened a formal consultation just before Christmas. It was hoped that the new formula would go some way to address the issue of under-funding in Central Bedfordshire schools. It is therefore extremely disappointing and disheartening that schools within LC2 are instead looking at significant reductions to their funding, on average £365 per pupil.

Schools have already had to absorb significant increased costs, including National Insurance and pension contributions which were brought about by changes in the law, with the Department for Education providing no extra funding for these costs. In fact, during this parliament overall funding per pupil has reduced and along with the national funding formula it paints a bleak picture for our schools.

We are not alone in facing these challenges; schools across the county and country have all been impacted by these increased costs and uncertainty regarding the national funding formula. We cannot emphasise enough the real threat posed to our schools and would welcome your valued support in raising awareness. If you feel strongly about this issue, you could write to your local MP, the Secretary of State for Education, or complete the online petition at <http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk/>.

We thank you very much in anticipation of any support you can generate for the challenges faced by our schools.

Yours faithfully

Tim Carroll
Headteacher