



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

Our ref: SC/1703

17 March 2017

*Dear Justine,*

**School's National Funding Formula – Stage 2 consultation**

I am writing in response to proposed changes to the National Funding Formula (NFF) as part of the consultation which closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. I have also enclosed letters and emails I have received from 18 schools across Broxtowe after I wrote to all head teachers asking for their comments.

I appreciate that the reasoning behind the proposed funding changes is to make the system fairer for schools across England. However out of the 36 schools in my constituency, 24 will experience a decrease in the amount of funding they receive and the head teachers are worried about the impact this will have on their already tight budgets.

One of the common themes to note from the schools' responses is that the new NFF will ultimately lead to staff redundancies. Indeed, of particular note is the impact this will have on support staff, with eight of the schools saying the new NFF will either mean reductions in the hours that support staff work, or redundancies. Some mention the impact that such cutbacks will have on the quality of education, and the knock-on effect this will have on teacher workload, which I know the Government has worked to reduce over the past few years.

A number of schools have also pointed to the impact this will have on children with special educational needs (SEN). For instance, the Principal of Chetwynd Primary points out that her school does not benefit greatly from Pupil Disadvantage Funding, however they have SEN children who will be greatly disadvantaged as a result of the new NFF simply because they have parents who work. Similarly, the head teacher of Gilthill Primary School, who writes on behalf of four other primary schools in the constituency, points out that the changes will mean they will soon be unable to take SEN children as the funding will not be enough to cover the provision these children need.

The increase in additional costs are another factor that hits heavily on many of the school's budgets. For instance, the Head of White Hills Federation Trust, which covers three secondary schools in Broxtowe, points to an increase in NI costs, an increase in teacher pension contributions and the loss of the Educational Support Grant, as extra burdens on the school's ever tightening budgets.

The Kimberley School – which will lose out the most in Broxtowe – will see its funding reduced by £160,000. The school has already experienced declining Ofsted ratings recently and the new Head Teacher is working with governors to do what he can to turn this around. However, with such a large budget cut proposed and in the wider context of other financial pressures described above, the school is understandably concerned about the standard of education they provide decreasing further.

Finally, various head teachers have commented on the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy for schools which they believe will have a detrimental effect on budgets and will provide little added benefit. Indeed, some of the schools that will see an increase in funding from the new NFF, will see any benefit wiped out due to the extra costs outlined above, in addition to those put on them by the Apprenticeship Levy.

It is clear from the responses that I have received from head teachers across my constituency that there are genuine fears about the reduced amount of funding available to them whether they receive an increase in funding from the NFF or not. As such I would be very grateful for your further consideration of this matter and for any assistance or reassurance you can provide.

*as ever,*



**Rt Hon Anna Soubry MP**

- Enc.** Letter from Gilthill Primary School, Awsworth Primary School, Hollywell Primary School, Larkfields Infant School, Larkfields Junior School, Kimberley Primary School and Mornington Primary School;  
Letter from Chilwell School;  
Letter from Greasley Beauvale Primary School;  
Letter from Bispham Drive Junior School;  
Letter from Chetwynd Primary Academy;  
Letter from The White Hills Park Federation Trust;  
Email from Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School and Beeston Rylands Junior School;  
Email from Alderman Pounder Infant & Junior School;  
Email from Bramcote Hills Primary School;  
Email from The Kimberley School.