

*WORKING TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.*  
**Bromley Primary and Special School Forums**

16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

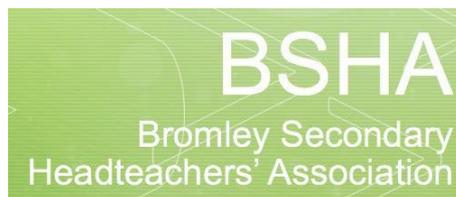
In Spring 2019, Some Primary Schools wrote to families regarding education funding in Bromley Primary Schools. This has been a national news topic, as funding has been reduced in real terms over the years; effecting the provision within our schools.

Secondary Head Teachers in Bromley recently released a joint statement regarding secondary funding and have given permission for the Primary Heads Forum to send this to all Bromley Primary schools for circulation and information for families.

Yours sincerely

P Farrow,  
Chair of the Primary Heads Forum

Secondary Head's Letter to families:-



11<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

**School Funding Issues**

In recent months there has been much coverage in the national media regarding pressures being felt in schools across the country as a result of real term cuts in school funding. A group of over 2000 Head Teachers from primary, secondary and special schools took unprecedented action in campaigning at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation; and in March a large number of schools sent a joint communication to parents providing an update on current issues relating to school funding, as part of a nationwide campaign, Worth Less?, comprising 64 local authorities and boroughs, covering thousands of schools and millions of families.

We feel it is important to write to you with an update on the issues we are experiencing in our schools. It is unprecedented for us to send a joint communication to our parents but we feel it necessary to convey the same message and to demonstrate that these issues are not unique to any one of our schools. There is excellent collaboration between our secondary schools in Bromley and we have established links with the group of Head Teachers from Bromley primary and special schools, all of whom are experiencing the same issues, which are impacting equally on our schools.

Our current concerns include:

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced by between 8-20% in real terms
- Class sizes are rising and schools are having to consider or will have already implemented changes and

- reductions to the school curriculum offer
- Schools are being required to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing and we risk not having adequate resources to meet a growing need
- A reduction in services or the capacity of services outside school to meet the needs of our children and young people
- A significant reduction in post-16 funding affecting schools with a Sixth Form provision
- A lack of investment funding for schools in order to make improvements to buildings
- A need to have greater certainty of future funding and costs to support schools in producing accurate 3 year budget forecasts
- The uncertainty regarding whether future pay increases and increased employer pension contributions will be funded or part-funded
- Challenges with teacher recruitment, teacher workload and retention, especially in light of funding issues
- Reductions we have made or are likely to have to make to our school workforce

Head Teacher representatives have recently met with the Secretary of State for Education and other members of the Department for Education as part of the Worth Less? Campaign to raise these concerns and convey these very real issues facing school

We are pleased to report that in Bromley we have worked proactively and with the support of Councillor Fortune, council officers and members of parliament in Bromley in highlighting funding issues. Representatives of headteachers in Bromley went to Westminster to meet with the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb MP; we await an outcome from this meeting.

We recognise the pressures on Bromley Council and the reductions which have been made to local authority funding. The Local Authority are committing additional funding to meet a shortfall in funding to meet the costs of SEN provision. They have commissioned a review of special educational needs provision to ensure that as far as possible the needs of students with special educational needs and disabilities can be met within the borough by our existing and new provision in mainstream and special schools, and in a cost effective way.

In spite of the very many challenges facing our schools, we remain as committed as ever to providing the best education, care, support and guidance to our children and young people. We are striving to recruit the best teachers to work in our schools and to ensure that Bromley continues to be a brilliant place in which our students continue to attain and achieve highly.

As we commit to the campaign for improved levels of funding for our schools and pupils, we feel fortunate that we are so strongly supported by parents and carers. We know that a number of parents have made representations to their local MP, to the Department for Education and wider government.

Should you share our view about the importance of funding our schools adequately and investing in the children and young people of Bromley, we encourage you to express this to your member of parliament.

We wish to recognise the work of our parent associations and the voluntary contributions made by parents towards school trips and activities, without which these would not be able to run. Your contributions to school voluntary funds also go some way towards sustaining our additional programmes and provision, which enrich students' experience of school.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Murphy, Head Teacher, Bishop Justus School

Mr N Miller, Executive Head Teacher, Bromley Educational Trust Mr B Greene, Head Teacher, Bullers Wood School

Ms A Gouldthorpe, Head Teacher, Bullers Wood School for Boys Mr S Chotai, Head Teacher, Charles Darwin School

Mrs K Raven, Headmistress, Chislehurst School for Girls Mrs S Puxty, Principal, Coopers School

Mrs E Codling, Head Teacher, Eden Park High School Dr M Airey, Head Teacher, Darrick Wood School

Mr S Whittle, Principal, Hayes School

Mr S Parsons, Head Teacher, Langley Park School for Boys Ms K Scott, Head Teacher, Langley Park School for Girls Ms S Spence, Head Teacher, Ravens Wood School

Mr M O'Shaughnessy, Head Teacher, The Ravensbourne School