



St. Richard's Catholic College

A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College



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Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

7th March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have heard about the campaign that Headteachers in other counties, such as West Sussex have launched, in order to protest at the lack of school funding and the effect on our children and young people.

Headteachers and Governors in East Sussex have decided to do something similar and we would like to ask you to join in. This letter, sent **to parents of primary and secondary age children across East Sussex**, is an appeal for help. We need to let local and central Government know that school funding is in crisis. We are using all channels available to us but, as parents, we feel they might listen to you.

We are starting by lobbying our local MPs and trying to get them to ask the Government to help with the rising costs for schools. Individual schools will be doing this too, but we would like to ask you to write to your MP as parents to protest about the effects of funding cuts in schools.

The Government claims that funding for schools has remained the same, but they do not mention that all schools face rising costs due to inflation and other extra charges recently introduced by the Government. According to the National Audit Office, this will equate to £3 billion less between 2019 and 2020.

As a result, Headteachers across East Sussex are having to look very hard at the provision for pupils and are considering decisions that would result in:

- Larger class sizes and fewer teachers and senior staff
- School buildings falling into disrepair
- Cuts to pastoral services
- Outdated computer equipment
- Fewer GCSE and A Level options in secondary schools
- Fewer trips and after school activities that have previously been subsidised or offered free

Overleaf, we provide contact details for the MPs who cover East Sussex, and some tips on writing the letter. We want MPs to know that the Government's policy of cutting funding for schools by not supporting us with such increased costs is unpopular and that they should not support the policy if they want our votes. Therefore it is important that we all write individually, even if your letter is very short.

For more detailed information on the funding crisis and the impact it is having on schools nationally please see our Facebook Page and Twitter @FlatCashEd where more detailed information is available.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Miss D Cronin
Principal



Tips for writing a letter to your MP as suggested by the Chair of the East Sussex Governor Representative Group

Ideas to start your letter:

"I am writing because I am unhappy about the lack of money in schools."

"I wanted to say that I don't think it's right that schools are getting less money"

"I have heard that real term funding to schools is being cut."

Ideas for the middle of your letter:

Mention the specific things you are unhappy about. You could include anything you have experienced or heard of, such as your child being taught in larger classes, or your child's school not being able to run enough GCSE options, or problems with school buildings.

Eg "My child is unhappy because there are not enough teachers at her school to run the GCSE she wants to do."

Or "My child is experiencing stress and mental health issues, but his school cannot afford a counsellor for him. This is causing my family great unhappiness."

Or "Children deserve the best education possible in reasonably sized classes with outstanding lessons delivered by professionally qualified teachers, who are continually updating their professional practice."

Or "My child is unhappy as he/she struggles and there are no longer any Teaching Assistants in her class."

Or "My child's secondary school now charges for text books; I cannot afford them".

Ideas to end your letter:

Tell your MP what you want from him/her. He/She will listen, because they want your vote!

Eg "I would support you if you spoke in public about the need for schools to have enough money."

"I would like to see you asking questions about the lack of funding in schools."

"I think good MPs should support their constituents by asking for more money for schools."

INSERT Contact details for your MP

Caroline Ansell MP (for Eastbourne and Willingdon)
42 Grove Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 4TY

Amber Rudd MP (Hastings & Rye)
Swallow House
Theaklen Drive
St Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN38 9AZ

Huw Merriman MP (for Bexhill and Battle)
29-31 Sea Rd
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1EE