

To all parents and carers in Bath and North East Somerset,



BANES School Funding Crisis

We are writing to you as a group of concerned head teachers and chief executive officers.

You may have seen coverage in the national and local media about the situation with schools funding. This is directly affecting our schools now. Schools in Bath and NE Somerset (BANES) are experiencing unprecedented cuts to school budgets. Between 2013/14 and 2018/19 spending per child in BANES schools is down in real terms by -8.8% in Bath Constituency and -6.7% in NE Somerset¹; while pupil numbers and costs have gone up.

Our priority is to provide your children with the best education we can, and we are working hard with our teams to cope. But we are reaching breaking point and we are now being forced to take really tough decisions. The steps we are taking vary from school to school, but the themes are:

- Bigger class sizes
- Fewer teaching assistants and other support staff (e.g. pastoral staff, mentors)
- Inadequate support for children – especially as support services have suffered similar severe cuts and / or face massive increases in demand e.g. Child and Mental Health services
- The inability to fully meet the needs of children with additional needs in mainstream schools who rely on school (and external service) support
- Low or no funding for equipment, training and activities to promote a broad and balanced curriculum

As head teachers and chief executive officers, we have been cautious about communicating directly with you about the challenges we face (we cannot be seen to be political and it's difficult to highlight individual challenges when our schools' future depends on attracting new pupils).

But we feel that the situation is now so dire, we need to find a way of making politicians listen and we are asking for your help. Your voices, as parents and carers, will be powerful in calling attention to the issues, because politicians will listen to parents and carers.

If you would like to support a BANES-wide campaign, led by parents and carers - and supported by head teachers and chief executive officers - you can take the following actions:

- **Save the date – June 8th!** Pupils, parents, carers, school staff and head teachers are coming together on Saturday 8th June to hold a “Protest Picnic” on the Royal Crescent to highlight our support for BANES Schools and draw some much needed attention to the crisis in our schools. We are meeting in Queens Square Bath at 12:00 and marching to the Royal Crescent for a picnic.
- **Signing the online petition:** you can find it here <http://chnq.it/qG5dqrXn5D>
- **Joining the BANES parents action group:** see Fair Funding for All Schools – BANES Facebook group and our website: www.ffas-banes.co.uk
- **Spreading the word:** do you want to be the school contact for BANES parents campaign group? Do you know anyone who could represent us from other schools in BANES? Get in touch with: Kevin.Burnett@nahtofficials.org.uk [Branch Secretary of the National Association for Head Teachers in BANES] or via the Facebook page
- **If you want more information** contact: Kevin.Burnett@nahtofficials.org.uk and / or kirstiedive@yahoo.co.uk

¹ House of Commons Library – Constituency data on School funding
[<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/social-policy/education/schools/constituency-data-schools-funding/>]

Thank you for your concern and action on behalf of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Palladian Trust:

Tim Withers (CEO)
Oldfield Park Juniors
Ralph Allen School
Combe Down
Oldfield Park Infants
St. Martin's Garden
St. Philip's
Widcombe Jnrs.
Widcombe Infants

Wellsway MAT:

Andrea Arlidge (CEO)
Chandag Junior School
Chandag Infant School
Saltford CE Primary School
St. John's CE Primary School (Keynsham)
The Bath Studio School
IKB Academy
Wellsway School
Aspire Academy

MSNP:

Alun Williams (CEO)
Damian Knollys – Peasedown St. John Primary
John Snell – Welton Primary
Alun Randell – Midsomer Norton Primary
Mark Everett – Writhlington School
Bruce Hain - Mendip Studio School
Ruth Noall - St Julians Church School and Shoscombe Church School
Liz Ennew – Clutton Primary
Dan Turull - Farrington Gurney Primary
Gareth Griffith - High Littleton
Kerrie Courtier - Longvernal Primary
Claire Mirams - St. John's (MSN)
Simon Mills – Westfield Primary
Michelle Parsons - Trinity Church School and Dundry CE Primary
Andrew Davies - Beechen Cliff School
Gordon Green - Norton Hill School
Jo Postlethwaite - Somervale School

Bath Spa University

Pat Black - Teacher Training

Bath & Wells Diocesan MAT:

Philip Bowditch (CEO)
Thomas Brewer – Bathampton
Sally Jefferies – Batheaston
Karen Sykes - Bathford

Kevin Purkiss – Bathwick St. Mary
Andrew Wishart – Freshford
Jayne Rochford-Smith - St. Andrew's
Joe Beament - St. Saviour's Juniors
Ed Harker - St. Saviour's Infants
Andy Bowman - St. Stephen's Primary
Clare Greene - St. Michael's Juniors

Lighthouse Trust:

Gary Lewis (CEO)
Dieter Cook – Bishop Sutton Primary and Stanton Drew Primary
Gareth Beynon – Chew Valley School

Maintained School HTs:

Andy Tarrant - St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Nicola Smith - St. Nicholas Primary
Julie Hogan - Paulton Infants School

George Samios - Twerton Infants & Nursery School

Carl Hornsby – Whitchurch Primary
Gill Kennaugh – Newbridge Primary
Grant Swarbrooke – Swainswick Primary
Barnaby Ash – St. Mark's School
Steve Gumm – St. Keyna Primary
Cathie Lampert – St. Mary's Primary, Writhlington
Alice Brown – St. Mary's Primary, Timsbury
Angela Bennett – St. John's Catholic Primary
Ann Cusack – St. Gregory's Catholic College, Bath
Chris Cannings - Castle Primary School
Hannah Maggs - Cameley CofE Primary School
Annie Spencer - Chew Magna Primary School
Warrick Barton - Pensford Primary School

Standalone Academies

Ben Hewett - Chew Stoke Church School
Emma Yates – Hayesfield
Steve Mackay – Oldfield School

Bath and Mendip Partnership Trust:

David Gregory (CEO)
Anne Bull - Abbot Alphege Academy and WASPS
Darren Roberts - Farmborough Church School
Emily Massey - Fosse Way School
Julie Player - Marksbury CofE Primary School
Georgina Scott - Moorlands Schools Federation (Infant and Primary School) :
Sue Adams - Roundhill Primary School

¹ House of Commons Library – Constituency data on School funding
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