

Is this Fair, Reasonable or Equitable?

As all parents will be aware, funding in schools has been under pressure since the austerity measures introduced in 2010.

The Department for Education is rolling out a National Funding Formula, where each 11-16 student in a secondary school receives a **minimum** of £4,800 per year to fund his or her education. This excludes the additional money provided for disadvantaged students through Pupil Premium (Approximately £1,000 per student). Local authorities are required to be transitioning towards this minimum funding level. Many local authorities have already completed this transition.

Currently, funding levels on Wirral mean that the six grammar schools are the lowest funded schools. For example, Calday Grange Grammar School (the lowest funded secondary school) is in receipt of £4,600 per student whilst the top funded school in the borough receives £6,900 per student (this is before schools receive additional income from Pupil Premium). All of the grammar schools recognise and accept that schools with high levels of deprivation require additional funding.

We have sought to work within this already difficult funding environment. Our response to shrinking educational budgets has included, but is not limited to:

- Increasing class sizes.
- Reducing or removing additional services such as Learning Mentors and school counsellors.
- Reducing the numbers of teachers.
- Reducing Senior/Middle management posts.
- Reducing opportunities for extracurricular activities.

'These steps have ensured that the six grammar schools are the most financially efficient in the borough' (against the criteria of cost per student vs educational outcomes measured against progress 8).

The grammar schools are simply asking for the minimum funding level identified by the Department for Education of £4,800 per student.

However, Schools Forum (the body that determines how school funding is apportioned) has recently recommended a funding model that will see:

- an **additional** £1.1M provided to 11 non-selective secondary schools
- whilst **removing** £460,000 of funding from the six grammar schools
- and **removing** £660,000 from the primary sector and leaving 48 primary schools worse off

(comparing the recommendation from Schools Forum to the National Funding Formula)

This will move the funding for Wirral schools further away from Department for Education's National Funding Formula and place unacceptable financial pressures on the schools concerned.

This funding model is set to be approved at the Wirral Cabinet meeting on:

Monday 18th February 2019 at Wallasey Town Hall at 10.00 am

'Wirral is failing to provide sufficient funds for the education of children who attend Wirral grammar schools. These schools provide education for 30% of the total 11-16 student population on the Wirral.'

'Wirral is also failing to allocate sufficient funding to the primary sector and 48 primary schools will be worse off with this decision'

Do you think that this decision is fair, reasonable or equitable?

All we ask is for Wirral Council to implement the National Funding Formula in full for 2019/20.

We just need our fair share of Wirral funding to enable us to educate and look after our students

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As a parent or supporter please help us to persuade Wirral Council to change their minds and join in with our actions

- 1 **Find out more** Read the detailed information presented on our website www.calday.co.uk – the red banner will link to information that you can download
- 2 **Seek support from primary schools** If you work in a primary school or have a child at a primary school that is affected please talk to the school and see if they are aware of the issue to see if they will join us in taking action
- 3 **Twitter**
 - Step 1 Follow our newsfeed @cggsnews
 - Step 2 Engage with our Twitter campaign by liking our tweets, Retweet and Retweet with quotes
 - Step 3 Use #schoolscuts #enoughisenough in your tweets
Copy in any or all of the following into your Twitter activity:
Wirral Council @WirralCouncil
Local MP's @frankfieldteam @angelaeagle @Alison_McGovern @MGreenwoodWW
Local Media @LivEchonews @WIRRALGLOBENEWS @WestKirbyToday
School Funding Pressure Groups @NEUnion @SchoolCuts @fairfundschoools @SaveSchoolsUK
- 4 **Write to your local MP and/or the Cabinet Members** who will be making this decision on 18th February 2019 (contact details are provided at the end of this letter)
- 5 **Attend the Full Council Meeting on 18th February 2019**, at which we seek responses to the following public questions:
 - Question 1**

A Conservative Government that has been committed to austerity, has established that the minimum funding for children in schools is £4,800 per 11-16 student. This has been identified as the lowest level of funding required for schools to operate effectively.
Why is a Labour controlled council prepared to authorise a school funding model that will see a number of schools funded at a level lower than this minimum funding level?
 - Question 2**

Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Families please explain how it is a fair and reasonable decision for Cabinet to approve on 17th December 2018 that Wirral will NOT implement the National Funding Formula for schools in full, when to approve the recommendation from Schools Forum to continue with the 'Wirral Formula' will leave the six selective secondary schools £460,000 worse off, remove £660,000 of funding from the primary sector, impacting on 48 Wirral primary schools and over-fund the 11 non-selective secondary schools by £1.1m compared to the amount they should receive under the National Funding Formula?'
 - Question 3**

Schools Forum 'voted' for Model 4 and -1.5% MFG. However, the adoption of a -1.5% MFG (Minimum Funding Guarantee) did not receive support from schools with the majority preferring the 0% MFG. If Wirral Borough Council Cabinet agree the recommendation of adopting Model 4 but do not agree the -1.5% MFG (on the grounds of procedural irregularity), do they leave themselves open to a legal challenge in the form of a Judicial Review?

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Contact Details for Local Councillors and MP's

Margaret Greenwood MP	<i>MP for Wirral West</i>	Hilbre House, 35A Market Street, Hoylake, Wirral, CH47 2BG <i>margaret.greenwood.mp@parliament.uk</i>
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Frank Field MP	<i>MP for Birkenhead</i>	The Rt Hon Frank Field MP DL House of Commons London SW1A 0AA <i>fieldf@parliament.uk</i>
Angela Eagle MP	<i>MP for Wallasey</i>	Sherlock House, 6 Manor Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Wirral, CH45 4JB <i>eaglea@parliament.uk</i>
Councillor P Davies	<i>Leader of Wirral Council</i>	<i>phildavies@wirral.gov.uk</i> 0151 691 8540
Councillor G Davies	<i>Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member Housing & Planning</i>	<i>georgedavies@wirral.gov.uk</i> 07713 644330
Councillor B Mooney	<i>Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, Cabinet Member - Children & Families & Wirral Schools Forum</i>	<i>berniemooney@wirral.gov.uk</i> 07811 060891
Councillor C Jones	<i>Cabinet Member Adult Care & Health</i>	<i>christinejones@wirral.gov.uk</i> 07853 042243
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