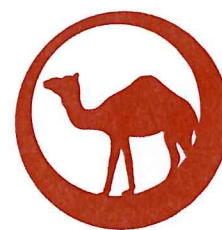


19th May 2017



**SIR JAMES SMITH'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Dear Parents / Carers

School Funding – A guide for parents

Along with up to 3000 Headteacher colleagues across 14 counties I am writing to you in order to raise the issue of school funding and the significant current financial difficulties that all of our schools are now facing.

During all of our campaigning work to improve funding for each and every child in each and every school, we have been careful not to become involved in a politically biased or partisan way. Headteacher colleagues and I feel that ahead of the forthcoming general election it is crucial that parents, carers and all other interested parties raise the issue of school funding 'on the doorstep' with all prospective candidates.

It would be naïve to think that school funding is the only issue affecting everyone's lives but school finances are in such a dreadful state that we believe that it is vital to urge you to raise it as a key issue prior to 8 June. Cornwall is now being visited by national news reporters as they fully realise the extent to which schools in our county are suffering financially; for example, Radio 4 broadcast a 10 minute piece from one of the Penzance secondary schools last week on their lunchtime World at One programme.

As professionals we are only interested in securing fair and adequate funding for the children that we educate. This is under severe threat and has influenced our decision to contact you in a collaborative manner.

We hope that you will find the attached guide to be of use and make educational funding a cornerstone of the election campaign. The suggested questions could be put to any prospective parliamentary candidate so that we can all be fully informed as to the future of school funding in the very near future.

Thank you for your support

Jon Lawrence

Headteacher

On behalf of 14 counties

Brighton	East Sussex	Peterborough	Wokingham
Cambridgeshire	Essex	Suffolk	West Sussex
Cornwall	Hertfordshire	Surrey	
Devon	Norfolk	Thurrock	

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