

Dear Parents,

Please read the information below which has been written by the Flintshire Head Teacher's Federation. This letter will be distributed to all parents of Primary School children in Flintshire.

I have no doubt you are aware, from the press, of the pressures that Flintshire County Council (FCC) are currently under in setting their budget for 2018/19. As a result of these pressures FCC are proposing a 'cash flat' settlement for schools. However, this is a real term cut of between 3 and 5%, which schools are being asked to meet.

As a parent you will have many questions and concerns about how this may impact on your child's future education.

Will this impact on our school?

Yes this will affect all schools in Flintshire and may lead to:

- A predicted shortfall in almost all of our schools creating deficit budgets
- Redundancies amongst teaching staff
- Redundancies amongst support staff
- Less resources to support the curriculum
- Limited staff development
- Limited funding for repairs and maintenance of school buildings.

How may this affect my child?

- Larger class sizes
- Reduced additional needs support
- Reduced well being support
- Less small group support

Will it only affect my child this year?

- No. Indications from Flintshire County Council are that this will be even more challenging next year. (2019/20)
- This will result in further pressures to school staffing, resources and standards.

What have Flintshire Headteachers done to highlight their concerns?

- Agreed to maintain 12.5 hours of Nursery per week for 2018/19 and not cut to 10 hours as recommended in Stage 1 of FCC proposed efficiencies. (Minutes of FCC meeting 14th November 2017)
- Shared concerns with Flintshire County Council Leaders
- Discussed with Finance Officers all possible options
- Recognised that the budget proposal cannot maintain current standards for all our children
- Lobbied all County Councillors to share concerns
- Attempted to demonstrate that the 'presented cash flat budget' is a real term cut of between 3 and 5%. (As inflationary measures and rises in costs have not been allocated to school budgets)

What next?

- FCC would like schools and parents to write to Welsh Government Assembly Members and Westminster MPs to highlight the low funding allocated to Flintshire over many years.

Please support our school during these challenging times and be reassured that we will do our very best to minimise the impact of these cuts on your children.

Kind Regards

