

# St Thomas á Becket Church of England Federation

**Blackboys CE Primary School**  
School Lane  
Blackboys  
Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 5LL



**Framfield CE Primary School**  
The Street  
Framfield  
Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 5NR

**Head of School: Mr G Sullivan**

**Head of School: Mrs J Davies**

**Executive Headteacher:  
Mrs J F King**

08<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have heard about the new funding plan of our government and the mostly negative effect this might have on our children and young people. Fortunately our Federation is in a very good place and we will be able to brave the storm once more. However, we believe that this new round of budgeting is not what we should want for our children, our schools and the welfare of our education system in general.

Headteachers in other counties, such as West Sussex have already launched campaigns, 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 our provision for pupils and we 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 including teaching assistants and support staff in general
- Outdated computer equipment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

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 it if they want our votes. Therefore it is important that we all write individually, even if your letter is very short.

Underneath, we provide contact details for our MP, and have set out an example letter. Feel free to use this letter, or write your own.

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

Mrs JF King  
**Executive Head St Thomas á Becket Church of England Federation**

Contact details for MP for Wealden, Nus Ghani:

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA  
nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

An example of a letter that you could send to our MP as suggested by the Chair of the East Sussex Governor Representative Group:

Dear Ms Ghani,

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about the new school funding plan of our government. I have heard that there will be real term funding cuts in our school.

I am very unhappy about that as our school might need to decide to enlarge the classes, may have to reconsider the number of Staff and will have even less funds available for basic curriculum needs, not to mention funds for any extra special needs or extra-curriculum activities.

I would like to support you if you would ask questions about this issue in public and would raise awareness of my concerns within the government.

Thank you very much for your help.

Yours sincerely,