

# Understanding the impact of funding in Schools: Parent Information Guide

## What do we know?

The cost of living continues to impact everyone, meaning all sectors have to address how to save money while ensuring key areas are affected as little as possible. Households are having to tighten their belts, so the opportunities and experiences children usually have may be limited over the next year or so.

For schools, the main factors impacting budgets are:

- Increasing costs of service providers
- Substantial increase in energy costs
- Staffing costs—a proportion of which are not provided for by funding

## What is the key issue?

The key aspect of all of this is schools are not currently receiving extra money to cover costs of staffing or energy.

In real terms, our concerns are:

- Schools unable to employ experienced teachers due to budget constraints
- Losing high-quality staff (both teachers and support staff) who can not afford the cost of living (especially in Hertfordshire)
- Schools having to reduce the numbers of support staff such as teaching assistants and pastoral support to balance budgets
- Reduction in trips and extra-curricular opportunities, as schools can no longer subsidise these, especially for struggling families
- Schools are unable to cover costs of resources that have greatly increased in price
- A reduction in available services (especially SEND support services) due to cuts and reduced funding

## What is the next step?

The primary head teachers across St Albans want to inform parents of these issues, so that you are prepared for how this may impact upon all of our schools and therefore our children.

We are discussing how best to support our pupils going forward. Some schools have already set up/restarted donation pages. Others have started “pay it forward” schemes, whereby those parents who are luckily enough to be financially stable help contribute funds for those who are less fortunate.

If parents have the opportunity, please share your concerns with local MPs so that these issues are kept at the forefront of the government agenda.

## KEY FACTS:

- School spending per pupil in England fell by 9% in real terms between 2009–10 and 2019–20, the largest cut in over 40 years.
- School spending per pupil in 2024 is predicted to remain 3% below 2010 levels in real-terms once you account for actual costs faced by schools.
- A survey by the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) reports that just 2% said that they would be able to return a balanced budget by next year.

This information page has been brought to you by the Primary Headteacher Consortium of St Albans representing the following primary and nursery schools:

Aboyne Lodge  
Alban City  
Bernards Heath Junior  
Bernards Heath infant  
Bowmansgreen  
Camp  
Colney Heath  
Cunningham Hill  
Fleetville Infant  
Fleetville Junior  
Garden Fields  
Howwood  
Killigrew  
Mandeville  
Maple  
Mount Pleasant Lane  
Muriel Green  
Oakwood  
Praewood  
Sandridge  
St John Fisher  
Skyswood  
St Adrians  
St Bernadette  
St Peters  
Watling View  
Wheatfields Infant  
Wheatfields Junior  
Windermere