



Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that recent government policy has finally acknowledged that some regions in the country receive far less funding for education than others, Torbay being one of these. The government proposed a national funding formula to address this inequity and this would have meant that our schools received funding which is more in line with schools across the country.

However, we are writing to make you aware of a consultation document, available via <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/media/11894/dsg-higher-needs-block-consultation-document.pdf>, which proposes to remove much of this desperately needed funding from our five schools in order to address Torbay's financial pressures.

The local authority are proposing to take money which was targeted for our five schools in order to fund the education of children outside mainstream education. This is a significant sum of over three quarters of a million pounds, which equates to twenty teachers across the five schools.

We are therefore writing to all of our parents so that you can make your voices heard should you feel that this is unacceptable. By clicking on the above link, you can access the consultation documents. The key question in the document is question four, which asks whether you support the virement application (i.e. the request to transfer money from one budget to another) to deal with Torbay's deficit budget position. The combined secondary non-selective schools' response to this is that we do not support the virement application.

The reason for this is that it is inherently unfair as it will continue to maintain the underfunding of schools' in Torbay. Funding, which has already been allocated to our schools in recognition of years of underfunding of Torbay's children, is at risk of being diverted to address the local authority's financial position.

Your voice is important to ensure we are heard and our children receive the funding that they deserve. Please share your views via the consultation document, https://www.torbay.gov.uk/surveys/DSGHigherNeedsBlock/dsg_higher_needs_block.htm, before 21st November 2018.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Smith
Head of School
Paignton Community
and Sports Academy

Ms A Newton
Principal
The Spires College

Mr S Margetts
Principal
Torquay Academy

Mr M Eager
Principal
Brixham College

Mr P Brown
Headteacher
St Cuthbert Mayne School