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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Councillor Nick Kelly
Leader, Plymouth City Council
By email: nick.kelly@plymouth.gov.uk

5 July 2021

Dear Cllr Kelly,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding school funding. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

In 2021-22, mainstream school funding is increasing by 3.5 per cent overall. The national funding formula (NFF) continues to distribute this fairly, based on the needs of schools and their pupil cohorts. The NFF is increasing school funding and delivering resources where they are needed most, while ensuring that every school is attracting at least 2 per cent more pupil led funding per pupil.

Every primary school will receive at least £4,000 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,150 per pupil. All schools will also receive extra funding to cover additional teachers' pay and pension costs. This adds a further £180 and £265 respectively to the minimum per pupil amounts. We have made the use of the national minimum per pupil funding levels compulsory for authorities to deliver in 2021-22 to assure head teachers that they receive at least these levels locally.

Plymouth City Council is receiving an extra £6.7 million for schools this year, an increase of 3.9 per cent per pupil, excluding growth funding. This takes total funding for 2021-22 in Plymouth to over £178.6 million, including additional funding to meet increased costs of teachers' pay and pensions.

The purpose of the NFF is not to give every school the same level of per pupil funding. It is right that schools with more pupils with additional needs, such as those indicated by measures of deprivation, low prior attainment, or English as an additional language, receive extra funding to help ensure that schools are supported to meet the needs of all their pupils. In addition, schools in more expensive areas, such as London, have higher funding per pupil than other parts of the country to reflect the higher costs they face.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Gold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and "G".