

# MOTION ON NOTICE

18 March 2019



## FAIR FUNDING FOR PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS

Plymouth City Council notes that according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, spending per pupil in England's schools has fallen by 8% since 2010. The Council believes that these shameful cuts to school budgets show that the current Conservative Government cannot be trusted to invest adequately in our children's future.

In Plymouth, because of the historic unfairness and inequity in the way that education funding has been calculated, the situation is particularly serious, and schools in the City are currently still receiving £338 less per pupil than an average school in England.

By failing to address this situation immediately, the Conservative Government is forcing Plymouth schools to pass on damaging cuts, and this is resulting in fewer teachers, Teaching Assistants and learning resources in the classroom. The Council believes that these cuts are making it harder for schools to improve their performance and deliver good outcomes for children in Plymouth.

Whilst we acknowledge that the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) is an attempt by Government to address the funding shortfall, we do not believe the NFF goes far enough, or fast enough, to reverse the cuts to school budgets in Plymouth.

Furthermore, the 3% gains cap, introduced alongside the NFF, is severely limiting the amount of money going to Plymouth schools in the NFF phased implementation period. The Council notes that under the NFF Plymouth should have gained £10.6 million in 2018-19. However, as a result of this gains cap, Plymouth schools only gained £5 million, leaving a significant hole in school budgets. For some schools in Plymouth, particularly those with high need, the impact of this is massive. For example, In 18-19:

- Sir John Hunt (Budshead) lost £320,000
- Tor Bridge High (Moor View) lost £380,000
- Beechwood Primary (Southway) lost £86,000

The Council therefore calls on the Government to:

- Remove the damaging gains cap which is punishing schools in Plymouth with great need;
- Increase the level of funding for Plymouth schools, bringing up the level to the national average immediately; and
- Asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education in the terms set out above.

**Proposed by Councillor Jon Taylor by email 10 March 2019**

**Seconded by Councillor Tudor Evans by email 10 March 2019**