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## *Growing & Learning Together through Faith, Friends & Fun*

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### Current Financial Climate within Flintshire

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you may be aware, there are going to be budget cuts within Flintshire that could have an impact on Flintshire schools over the next few years.

Flintshire Headteacher representatives have drafted a letter to highlight some of the issues that may occur. The letter overleaf has been sent out to all Flintshire schools and is quite generic. The severity of the points highlighted will differ for each individual school but we feel that it is important to share this information with you.

The impact on our school this year may be minimal yet we still have to plan for the future and will be doing everything we can to look for possible solutions. We will need your help more than ever when; asking you to support events run by the Friends; asking you to ensure dinner/breakfast club/after school club debts are minimal; and asking for voluntary contributions.

The primary schools in Flintshire wish to stand together as a united front and express our concerns to Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Government.

Please take the time to read the information overleaf and if you have any concerns, feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Mr Griffiths

Dear Parents

I have no doubt you are aware, from the press, of the pressures that Flintshire County Council (FCC) are currently under in setting their budget for 2018/19. As a result of these pressures FCC are proposing a 'cash flat' settlement for schools. However, this is a real term cut of between 3 and 5%, which schools are being asked to meet.

As a parent you will have many questions and concerns about how this may impact on your child's future education.

### **Will this impact on our school?**

Yes this will affect all schools in Flintshire and may lead to:

- A predicted shortfall in almost all of our schools creating deficit budgets
- Redundancies amongst teaching staff
- Redundancies amongst support staff
- Less resources to support the curriculum
- Limited staff development
- Limited funding for repairs and maintenance of school buildings.

### **How may this affect my child?**

- Larger class sizes
- Reduced additional needs support
- Reduced well-being support
- Less small group support

### **Will it only affect my child this year?**

- No. Indications from Flintshire County Council is that this will be even more challenging next year (2019/20).
- This will result in further pressures to school staffing, resources and standards.

### **What have Flintshire Headteachers done to highlight their concerns?**

- Agreed to maintain 12.5 hours of Nursery per week for 2018/19 and not cut to 10 hours as recommended in Stage 1 of FCC proposed efficiencies (Minutes of FCC meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017).
- Shared concerns with Flintshire County Council Leaders
- Discussed with Finance Officers all possible options
- Recognised that the budget proposal cannot maintain current standards for all our children
- Lobbied all County Councillors to share concerns
- Attempted to demonstrate that the 'presented cash flat budget' is a real term cut of between 3 and 5% (As inflationary measures and rises in costs have not been allocated to school budgets).

### **What next?**

- FCC would like schools and parents to write to Welsh Government Assembly Members and Westminster MPs to highlight the low funding allocated to Flintshire over many years.

Please support our school during these challenging times and be reassured that we will do our very best to minimise the impact of these cuts on your children.

Kind Regards

Headteachers' Federation