



FYLDE ASSOCIATION

How you can help - and why

How you can help your school and others –

- 1) Log onto www.schoolcuts.org.uk, click on 'Email your Candidates' near the top of the screen and fill in your, name, email, and postcode. Your Fylde candidates and their photos will appear, with the letter on funding levels that you can email to them. Click on 'send email'. Some of the candidates have already responded to previous emails, but the more emails they get, the more seriously they will take this issue.
- 2) If canvassers come asking for your vote, tell them about your concerns. Ask them what their candidate is going to do about education funding, **especially** if they have not got a tick on the screen in 1) above to say they have made a promise to protect funding.
- 3) Tell your friends, family and neighbours about how serious this problem is. Ask them to do the same.
- 4) Consider the information you have gleaned very carefully when you vote on June 8th.
- 5) We are likely to have to follow up our concerns after the election to make sure any promises are fully honoured.

Why do we want you to do this?

We are blowing the whistle on how serious the schools cuts are at a time when politicians listen more carefully, when they can be more easily challenged and when they want our votes. If these cuts go ahead, there is a "real risk" of "declining standards". Those words are not ours. They come from the House of Commons all party Committee of Public Accounts in their report on the "Financial Sustainability of Schools" written on 22nd March this year(*). That report did not mince its words. In its conclusions, it makes three really significant points. One is that the Government, while demanding £3 billion efficiency savings from schools, has not assessed what all the costs are which the Government itself is placing on schools. The second is that it has no idea whether the £3 billion cut is affecting school standards, with no plans to act if it does. The third point is that the Government is not listening or engaging with schools and does not seem to understand the budgetary pressures they are under already. So, we have cuts to school budgets from a Government which promised in its Manifesto that it would not make any. We also have a Government which is still pretending that cuts don't exist, while not engaging with schools to find out what is going on.

To get the message about the cuts out loud and clear, we have used Government statistics to produce figures for individual state schools in the UK. They are at www.schoolcuts.org.uk. For the methodology used in the calculations click on 'About' near the top of the home page. Our leaflet and advert used those figures to help spread the news to the community.

(* <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/890/890.pdf>)

What about elsewhere?

The funding problem is not just in Kirkham and Wesham. The problem is national, and meetings have been organised over the length and breadth of this country during the election period. So, parents and others here in the Fylde are not the only ones to be hearing the news and doing something about it. There was a big march in the Lancaster area on May 13th for example.

IMPACT ON LANCASHIRE - budget change by 2019

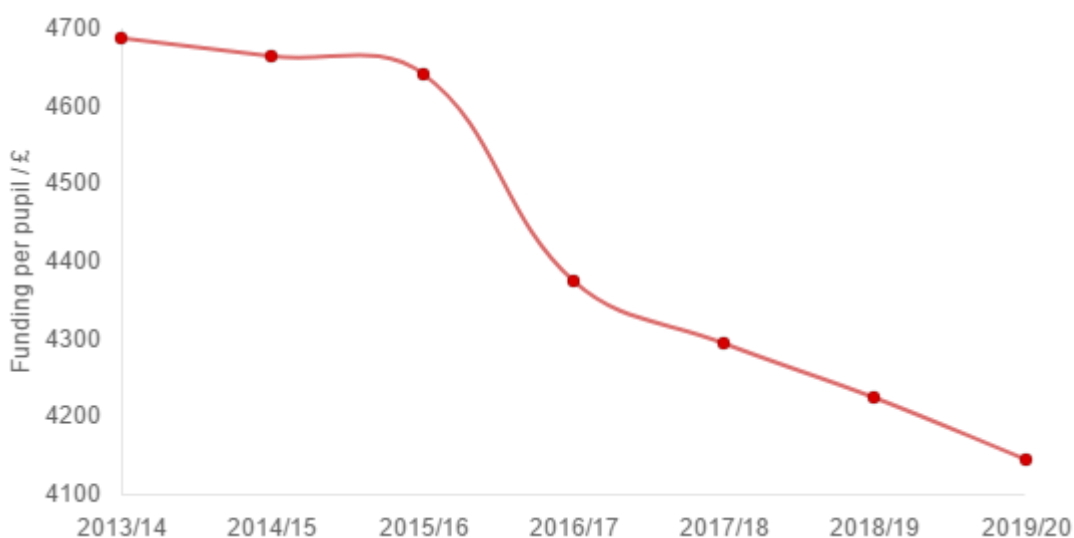
- Funding will be down by £76,261,093 in total in Lancashire schools ^[1]
- Funding will be down on average by £496 per pupil ^[2]
- Number of teacher jobs equating to this amount of money is 2047 ^[3]

[1]: Total estimated reduction across all schools in Lancashire in real terms by 2020, under current Government policies. These include plans to reallocate school budgets according to a new national funding formula, and not increasing funding per pupil in line with inflation.

[2]: Average amount that would be lost for every pupil in Lancashire as a result of the reduced budget. There are 154,275 pupils in Lancashire according to the school census.

[3]: The equivalent number of teachers that would be lost, based on the average teacher's salary of £37,250. In many schools, over 80% of funding goes on staffing.

Average funding per pupil in Lancashire schools over time in real terms



Funding is now sliding down seriously. Many schools around the whole of England are facing the largest cuts in real terms funding in more than a generation and the above graph shows clearly why things are coming to a head in 2017. Doing nothing means the problem gets worse. Clearly we need to press the candidates standing for election to reverse this situation.