



7th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Budget Cuts – The Impact on our Schools

You will no doubt be aware of the impending cuts across services in Wrexham County Council, including education. Over the next few years, the financial constraints imposed on our schools will present significant challenges and place every school, Primary, Secondary, Special and Welsh Medium in a very difficult budgetary position.

External factors, including inflation and increased costs, coupled with budgetary constraints at a National and UK Government level, have had a considerable impact on Local Government spending. There has been a slight increase in the Welsh educational budget, but the extremely high rate of inflation has meant a significant cut in our real term budgets. As a result, the budget settlements for schools in 2024/25 and onwards creates an extremely difficult financial climate for all of us. Of greatest concern to Headteachers and Governing Bodies is the impact this will have on learners across Wrexham.

Increasing energy costs have already placed an enormous burden on school budgets and continued increases add to the difficulties outlined above. In addition, Welsh Government grants, which schools use to support our learners and drive school improvement, are at risk.

For these reasons we are writing to ensure that all parents and carers are fully informed of the significant consequences all our schools are currently facing in relation to our budgets and the subsequent impact on the services we will be able to provide.

These are unprecedented times as regards school finances and budgets and the likely impact is outlined below:

- It will be difficult to maintain and develop a comprehensive curriculum that meets the diverse needs of all our learners.
- There will be limitations on resources, including staff time to run extracurricular activities and trips which can diminish the breadth, richness and quality of the education we aim to provide.
- There will be increased class sizes.
- ALN Reform will be affected, impacting on our most vulnerable learners as specialist support services are reduced at a time of great need.
- A possible reduction in subject option choices for 16 to 19 year olds.
- Schools will find it increasingly difficult to balance the budget, leading to inevitable staff reductions and redundancies.
- Innovation will be stifled at a time of great change and opportunity including The New Curriculum for Wales, new examination qualifications and important national initiatives.
- There will be an inevitable impact on our buildings and maintenance programmes.

As Headteachers, we assure our families that we will always do our utmost to maintain the core provision in our schools, protecting teaching and learning by placing our learners and staff at the heart of everything we do. However, we believe it is inevitable that, at least in the medium term, we will not be able to provide and sustain the same level of support and services across our schools due to the significant shortfall in our funding.

Your support and understanding during these challenging times is invaluable. We will continue to ensure that our concerns are shared at local and national level. We would encourage you to join us in voicing your concerns with local councillors and Assembly Ministers so that our families have a say about the impact these cuts to our education funding will have on our children.

Yours faithfully,

Wrexham Association of Secondary Headteachers.