

# School funding and next steps required according to ‘Worth Less?’



A note on purdah

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...there's a difference between saying education needs fair funding and criticising one or other party for their policy.

This is not a criticism of any political party

## A background to Worth Less?



‘Worth Less?’ is a **non-political** organisation which focuses on seeing all schools and academies funded adequately.

Jules White was the founder of this organisation and co-ordinates the work of the group which aims to provide information for heads to use in lobbying support for funding in schools. It started in West Sussex and now covers 74 Local Authorities, represented by over 7000 schools / heads and school leaders from Cornwall to Cumbria, including Devon.



Jules has been Headteacher at Tanbridge House School in West Sussex for 12 years, a school rated ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted in November 2012.

In December 2018, he was awarded the Times Educational Supplement person of the year award, acknowledging the work of the ‘Worth Less?’ campaign school.





F40 have been extremely supportive of our campaign

‘Worth Less?’ has analysed the recent funding announcement for schools and post 16 providers.

We have relied upon independent analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies. We are also aware of further analysis from professional associations and F40.

The following information summarises the likely current and future position of schools from November 2019 through to 2022-23.



## The Institute for Fiscal Studies provided initial independent analysis (19-09-19):

- A £7.1 billion increase over three years to commence in April 2020
- The investment represents **£4.3 billion** in real terms, but there will be no adjustment to school funding for the current financial year.
- The Institute for Fiscal Studies stated that:
  - “Big new money for schools and FE, but FE spending still over 7% down on 2010 while no growth in school spending per pupil for 13 years.”
  - “The extra £4.3 billion just committed for schools in England by 2022 will **just about reverse the cuts** of 8% in spending per pupil since 2009.”
  - “Even so, an effective 13-year real-terms freeze will still represent an unprecedented period without growth.”
  - “Meanwhile the 4% (£300 million) increase in spending per student on further education and sixth forms announced for next year will still leave them **over £1 billion short** of what they would need to **fully reverse** cuts since 2010.”



- The IFS predicated this analysis on the following assumptions:



1. Current salary grants will remain in place
2. £4bn additional pensions contribution to cover the 7% rise in National Insurance employers' costs
3. A current rate of inflation of just under 2%
4. Per pupil funding levels **do** consider increased pupil numbers over the next three years



There has been a strong suggestion that salaries will increase for some teachers by a significant amount - these **potentially large and new costs** appear to be unfunded.





## Further assessment of the government's announcement - UKSA

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA), received complaints from a range of groups questioning how the statistics relating to the recent funding announcement have been portrayed

a headline investment of £14 billion into schools but use of this statistic has been criticised.

*“... people who read no further might expect that the headline figure of £14 billion refers to an annual increase.*

*We therefore encourage the Department and Ministers to continue to provide appropriate context when making statements on school funding.” (UKSA Sept 2019)*



## High Needs

As yet, there have been no formal changes to the formulas relating to High Needs.

The government did announce a £700 million investment over the next three years.

The independent group ISOS had previously suggested that an immediate £1.2 billion investment was required in order to meet current demand.

Requests for EHCPs are growing at approximately 30% a year.

Special Schools are reporting significant strains on resource and capacity.

The Education select Committee's report (23/10/19) has provided significant evidence on the current system / provision / resource for High Needs

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201920/cmselect/cmeduc/20/2003.htm>





## Post 16 funding and provision



The current base rate is £4000 per student, rising to £4,188 next year – the first increase in core funding for almost a decade.

Campaign groups such as 'Raise the Rate' remain extremely concerned about current funding levels and potential (rising) parallel costs.



There is no coherent argument as to why a 16 year old pupil studying GCSEs in school should be funded at a higher rate than a 17 year old in Sixth Form or college.



## The National Funding Formula

These Secondary Unit Funding and Primary Unit Funding per pupil statistics provide several areas of concern:

- Many disadvantaged areas are likely to receive only a 1.8% increase to their budgets. In real terms this could lead to lower levels of per pupil funding for disadvantaged boroughs and communities from April 2020
- Significant disparities still remain between better and lower funded authorities...



	PUF	Pupils
South Gloucestershire	£3,905	23,561
Torbay	£4,099	9,972
Devon	£4,135	55,898
Plymouth	£4,140	20,791
Cornwall	£4,218	41,541
Greenwich	£5,012	24,708
Haringey	£5,101	21,370
Lewisham	£5,125	24,984
Wandsworth	£5,147	18,761
Hammersmith and Fulham	£5,311	9,854
Islington	£5,396	13,592
Kensington and Chelsea	£5,447	6,778
Westminster	£5,471	9,693
Camden	£5,486	10,751
Newham	£5,554	34,146
Lambeth	£5,573	21,602
Southwark	£5,638	23,341
Hackney	£6,018	18,408
Tower Hamlets	£6,028	23,447

	SUF	Pupils
Rutland	£5,001	2,593
Devon	£5,101	35,339
Cornwall	£5,187	27,219
Torbay	£5,286	7,404
Plymouth	£5,402	13,655
Nottingham	£6,056	14,542
Enfield	£6,104	18,934
Waltham Forest	£6,153	13,661
Merton	£6,165	7,937
Manchester	£6,209	28,030
Ealing	£6,268	15,669
Brent	£6,368	15,584
Barking and Dagenham	£6,372	13,670
Wandsworth	£6,531	9,494
Greenwich	£6,811	13,292
Lewisham	£6,859	11,287
Newham	£6,860	21,399
Kensington and Chelsea	£6,869	4,721
Westminster	£6,960	8,689
Haringey	£6,985	12,501
Camden	£7,058	7,957
Hammersmith and Fulham	£7,128	7,002
Islington	£7,132	7,443
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Primary schools average is £4280  
 Largest amount is £1893 per  
 pupil more than a Devon child



- Secondary average is £5495
- Largest amount is £2910 per pupil more than a Devon child

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South Gloucestershire	£3,905	23,561
Torbay	£4,099	9,972
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# School and Post 16 funding – ‘Worth Less?’ priorities for now and the future



1. **The National Funding Formula must be adequately funded for all schools**
2. **SEND/High Needs provision is in crisis** – legal obligations, rising demand and expectations mean that significant further investment is required
3. **Dedicated Grants for Schools (DSGs) should not be used in order to prop up High Needs budgets**
4. **Post 16 per pupil funding is inadequate** – a minimum level of per pupil funding is needed
5. **Many small schools are at significant risk of closure** –partly because of the reduction in ‘lump sum’ funding and that the lump sum itself is used as part of the calculation for per pupil funding calculations
6. **Anti-social behaviour, mental health, social work...what are schools responsible for – social care, policing, counselling?** Analysis (including associated costs) is required in relation to the wider support services that schools are currently having to cover / provide by default





# ...‘Worth Less?’ priorities for now and the future contd.



7. **Recent Education Select Committee recommendations** – a crucial element is the introduction of a 10 Year funding plan
8. **Schools require clarity over future costs, as well as future revenue streams.** The cost of any salary increases, for example
9. **Against a background of severe teacher shortages** in many parts of the country recently proposed salary increases will be welcomed but they must be fully funded with ‘new’ money
10. **Independent statistical analysis relating to school funding is required.** Currently, there is an over reliance on groups such as the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Educational Policy Institute to provide accurate and unvarnished funding analysis
11. **‘Worth Less?’ calls for an independently verified benchmarking tool for school funding.** funding increases are frequently portrayed as generous but lag behind inflation and, often, disregard increases in pupil numbers
12. **All schools must be sufficiently and sustainably funded.** Levelling up is important, but this should not be done at the expense of disadvantaged communities or areas that face high levels of challenge.

