

Angela Smith MP
Maria House
3 Fox Valley Way
Stocksbridge
Sheffield
S36 2AA

17th March 2017

Dear Angela Smith MP

Fair funding at Oxspring Primary School

I am writing as a concerned parent and constituent regarding the fair funding information which I received from Oxspring Primary School where my child attends. I am worried and alarmed by what I have read and wonder how the funding proposals are in any way 'fair' for the pupils and the school.

I am writing to you as my MP to ask you to do whatever you can to please ensure that Oxspring Primary School gets the funding it needs. I understand that under the proposed funding changes the school's income will reduce whilst running costs increase year on year. It urgently needs more funds to ensure that it can provide the children with the same quality of education as a school similar to Oxspring Primary in other areas of the country. We feel that the school is being penalised for being a small, rural school in an area of relatively low deprivation.

It is time now for the parents / carers of Oxspring Primary School to ensure that our plight to achieve fairer funding is known and widely publicised. Under the proposals, the school budget will face a decrease of 1.6% to their annual budget from 2018 / 19, although other schools in the Barnsley borough will increase. The impact of such a reduction in income is quite significant for the school. Oxspring Primary School (and others locally) is facing a very real crisis. This will potentially mean large class sizes; fewer support staff; less support for our pupils; less staff training, less computers and technology; no curriculum enrichment activities and so the list goes on. These are just a few examples of what cuts may have to be made. In simple terms, the amount Oxspring Primary School receives in its budget will not be enough to run the school as it is, and it's only going to get worse over the next few years. How is this fair for our children at Oxspring?

The school has set out what they need from the new funding formula; which I fully agree with. I would therefore ask you to support the school's position as follows:

1. No reduction in the proportion of school funding to be delivered through the basic entitlement as this will be fairer for all schools.
2. No increase in the proportion of the school funding to be delivered through deprivation factors.
3. Encourage the Secretary of State to recognise the value of education and invest in education for the benefit of all our futures.

Oxspring Primary School is a very good school and it must continue to be so. Please help ensure our pupils will not be let down by this unfairness and that Oxspring Primary can be sustainable in the future. I trust you will give this matter your immediate attention.

Yours sincerely