

**Stop
school
cuts.**

**London Councillor briefing
on school funding.**

National Education Union

3 July 2018

#neuclrs



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Foreword from Kiri Tunks



Councillors,

Thank you for joining us for this briefing and workshop for all London councillors on school funding.

We must be clear from the beginning; we are facing the largest cuts to school budgets for many generations.

As a result of these cuts we have seen parents, teachers and school leaders united around the need for more money for Education.

This evening we want to hear from you about the impact of school cuts on schools in your ward and how we can all continue to work together to win the funding our schools deserve.

The National Education Union believes that this country has enough money to properly fund our schools and colleges. We are the 5th richest country in the world and yet schools are struggling to afford the education our young people need and deserve.

Real term funding cuts mean schools are cutting staff, narrowing the curriculum, axing support for our most vulnerable students, at the same time as the number and needs of all our young people are growing.

Schools and colleges are not only getting less money in real terms but being asked to do more with it.

Education costs money. But ignorance costs more. A failure to properly fund the education system in this country is not only failing individual young people and their families but is creating huge problems for society in the future.

We thank you for joining us tonight and we look forward to working with you and hope you find this event useful.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kiri Tunks'.

Kiri Tunks

President, National Education Union (NUT Section)

How does school funding work?

In consultation with their schools forums, local authorities determine the individual allocation to schools. Academies are funded by the Education Funding Agency rather than the DSG, but their SEND budgets are worked out in much the same way as LA schools.

The DSG is currently divided into 3 notional blocks and is allocated on historical spending patterns:

- 1) **The Schools Block:** core funding for all pupils in all state-funded schools (including SEND and non-SEND pupils). It is worked out on a per-pupil basis.
- 2) **The High Needs Block:** this is used to provide additional funding (on top of that already provided by the Schools Block) for children with additional, complex educational needs – i.e. those with a Statement, EHCP or attending a special school.
- 3) **The Early Years Block:** this is used to fund education for pre-school age children, for instance in a nursery setting. It also funds additional support for children with SEND in early years settings.

From 2018-19 a fourth block is being introduced: **Central School Services**. This new block brings together funding for on-going responsibilities (i.e. admissions), Education Support Grants (ESG) and a cash sum for historic commitments.

In previous years, LAs were free to move funds between blocks. However, from 2018-19 LAs will only be able to transfer up to 0.5% of schools block funding to the high needs block, and only with consent of their schools forum.

Subsequently, if the High Needs Block is unable to cater for pupils with additional needs this could lead maintained schools to push pupils into special schools, as they may not be able to afford to provide the additional support SEND pupils are legally entitled to.

School cuts and NEU funding campaign update

- Funding per pupil is being cut significantly in real terms – see www.schoolcuts.org.uk for the latest information on schools in your constituency.
- 97% of London Schools are having their funding cut. London is losing £347 million by 2020.

The impact of funding cuts on London Schools

Local Authority	Phase	Schools	Percent change 2015/16 - 2021/22	Schools with per pupil funding cut 2015-2022	Schools with per pupil funding cut 2017-2022
Barking and Dagenham	Primary	43	-7%	100%	100%
Barking and Dagenham	Secondary	7	-4%	71%	14%
Barnet	Primary	84	-7%	99%	95%
Barnet	Secondary	19	-7%	95%	89%
Bexley	Primary	54	-6%	100%	80%
Bexley	Secondary	14	-4%	100%	43%
Brent	Primary	56	-9%	100%	100%
Brent	Secondary	12	-9%	100%	83%
Bromley	Primary	73	-11%	100%	100%
Bromley	Secondary	17	-5%	100%	6%
Camden	Primary	38	-9%	100%	100%
Camden	Secondary	9	-11%	100%	100%
Croydon	Primary	80	-5%	99%	51%
Croydon	Secondary	20	1%	15%	5%
Ealing	Primary	64	-3%	78%	31%
Ealing	Secondary	12	-5%	92%	42%
Enfield	Primary	62	-7%	100%	61%
Enfield	Secondary	16	-3%	69%	19%
Greenwich	Primary	63	-9%	100%	100%
Greenwich	Secondary	12	-9%	92%	100%
Hackney	Primary	54	-10%	100%	100%
Hackney	Secondary	13	-10%	100%	100%
Hammersmith and Fulham	Primary	34	-10%	100%	100%
Hammersmith and Fulham	Secondary	9	-10%	100%	100%
Haringey	Primary	62	-9%	100%	100%
Haringey	Secondary	12	-10%	92%	92%
Harrow	Primary	39	-7%	97%	85%
Harrow	Secondary	10	-7%	100%	60%
Havering	Primary	59	-3%	83%	32%
Havering	Secondary	18	-7%	100%	78%

Local Authority	Phase	Schools	Percent change 2015/16 - 2021/22	Schools with per pupil funding cut 2015-2022	Schools with per pupil funding cut 2017-2022
Hillingdon	Primary	64	-5%	98%	61%
Hillingdon	Secondary	20	-4%	90%	40%
Hounslow	Primary	53	-6%	100%	38%
Hounslow	Secondary	14	-7%	100%	86%
Islington	Primary	44	-8%	100%	98%
Islington	Secondary	9	-11%	100%	100%
Kensington and Chelsea	Primary	26	-9%	100%	100%
Kensington and Chelsea	Secondary	5	-10%	100%	100%
Kingston upon Thames	Primary	34	-6%	94%	68%
Kingston upon Thames	Secondary	10	-2%	60%	10%
Lambeth	Primary	59	-11%	100%	100%
Lambeth	Secondary	12	-9%	100%	100%
Lewisham	Primary	63	-9%	100%	100%
Lewisham	Secondary	8	-8%	100%	100%
Merton	Primary	43	-2%	65%	42%
Merton	Secondary	8	1%	38%	0%
Newham	Primary	65	-8%	75%	97%
Newham	Secondary	14	-7%	100%	93%
Redbridge	Primary	50	-4%	98%	50%
Redbridge	Secondary	15	0%	47%	0%
Richmond upon Thames	Primary	40	-3%	85%	18%
Richmond upon Thames	Secondary	6	-8%	100%	83%
Southwark	Primary	68	-11%	100%	100%
Southwark	Secondary	14	-11%	100%	100%
Sutton	Primary	39	-6%	97%	74%
Sutton	Secondary	14	-1%	79%	0%
Tower Hamlets	Primary	68	-9%	100%	100%
Tower Hamlets	Secondary	14	-11%	100%	100%
Waltham Forest	Primary	49	-7%	98%	98%
Waltham Forest	Secondary	14	-9%	100%	100%
Wandsworth	Primary	56	-9%	98%	100%
Wandsworth	Secondary	10	-7%	100%	70%
Warrington	Primary	69	-5%	91%	83%
Warrington	Secondary	12	-2%	58%	17%
Westminster	Primary	38	-5%	84%	79%
Westminster	Secondary	9	-9%	100%	100%

Note: All figures are in 2018/19 prices.

How does SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) funding work?

The Schools block is used to fund the education of all children in mainstream schools and covers core, premises (PFI, split sites), mobility and growth funding. It makes up the majority of the DSG (80%).

Every child with an EHCP is entitled to an extra £6000 of School Block funding on top of the per pupil amount already allocated to their school. If more funding is needed, extra costs are funded by the High Needs Block. However, as schools are required to find the first £6000 from their own budgets there is concern that this could decrease inclusion for SEND children in maintained schools.

NOTE: not every child with SEND has an EHCP – this means that many children who need additional support in school are not entitled to money from the High Needs Block, or additional Schools Block money. This means their extra needs must be met through the per pupil funding allocated to their school via the Schools Block, creating additional financial pressure.

SEND and the High Needs Block

The High Needs Block is intended to cater for pupils with severe or complex additional needs. It is divided into:

- 1) **Core funding:** money used to fund special school places and additional costs for children with EHCPs/Statements (beyond the initial £6K provided by the Schools Block). Paid by LAs to maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) or by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to academies.
- 2) **Top-up funding:** covers the cost of additional provision, beyond that already funded through the Schools and High Needs Blocks, to an institution to enable a pupil or student with severe needs to participate in education and learning.

Current challenges and pressures include a growing school population, rise in pupils diagnosed with SEN, increasing severity and complexity of SEND cases, limited special school places, pressure on wider local authority budgets (e.g. social care) and the extension of EHCP provision to the age of 25 without adequate additional funding.

What are Councils doing?

A survey by the County Councils Network revealed that yearly high-needs block overspends are worsening as demand rises. They have written to the Secretary of State for Education asking for an urgent meeting to readdress insufficient funding.¹

Why has SEND funding hit a crisis point now?

- Although the underfunding of the SEND sector has been a long standing issue within Local Authorities, until recently LAs and schools have been able to 'balance the books' through transferring funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. In [2017] this practice was limited to restrict transfers of a maximum of 0.5% between the blocks. This has thrown the crisis in SEND funding into sharp relief as schools can no longer 'plug the gaps' in SEND funding shortfalls by robbing Peter to pay Paul.
- The funding crisis is hitting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) especially hard, as SEND provision is often very expensive and caters to the most vulnerable children in society.
- As a result of funding cuts to SEND education, LAs and schools have seen a drastic decrease in SEND provision, a rise in exclusion rates and over 2000 children and young people with SEND having no access to schooling at all.
- The Government's recent announcement of a £50 million "cash injection" to be used to create more SEND school places is not new money – it is part of the £23 billion capital funding announced in 2015, which was created to provide 600,000 school places by 2021.
- Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi has said "over half the councils in England will receive more than £225,000 to increase places or improve schools for children with SEND, and every council will receive at least £115,000." However, many councils have deficits that run to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of pounds as a direct result of the underfunded education sector. Even if this money were additional funding it is simply a drop in the ocean.
- As a result of the cuts to SEND provision, 39 Local Authorities and School Cuts together wrote an open letter to the DfE, shown below.

¹ www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/councils-warn-that-yearly-overspends-on-special-education-are-unsustainable/



Dear Damian Hinds, Secretary of State for Education

We, the undersigned, represent local government and education professionals who are deeply concerned for the provision of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in our care. The Government's recent cash injection for SEND does not introduce any new money into Local Authority budgets and this will not solve the long term challenges LAs and schools face in delivering effective SEND provision.

Lack of adequate SEND funding is limiting local authorities' ability to meet their statutory duties for children living with SEND. The result has been far-reaching reductions to SEND provision and nationally over 2,000 children and young people identified with complex needs with no education provision at all.

We call for:

- A significant increase in High Needs Block funding to local authorities, which will allow LAs and schools to provide appropriate support to children and young people with the most complex needs
- An immediate increase in funding for schools which will allow them to deliver additional support for SEND children
- A fair, sustainable funding system for SEND that will respond to the individual needs of each local area and acknowledge the complexities of providing high quality SEND education

The Government must commit to working with local authorities and other stakeholders with an interest in SEND in order to achieve this. We urge the Government to act quickly on this matter, so that every child with SEND can receive the support they need to thrive.

Yours,
The undersigned

Local Authorities:

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Tim Cheetham

Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr. Evelyn Carpenter

Birmingham City Council
Cllr. Ian Ward

Bolton Council
Cllr. Ann Cunliffe

Bristol City Council
Cllr. Anna Keen

Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr. Lucy Nethsingha

Cumbria County Council
Cllr. Stewart Young

Ealing London Borough Council
Cllr. Yvonne Johnson

Enfield London Borough Council
Cllr. Achilleas Georgiou

Gateshead Council
Cllr. Gary Haley

Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr. Anntoinette Bramble

Halton Borough Council
Cllr. Mike Wharton

Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
Cllr. Larry Culhane

Hartlepool Borough Council
Cllr. Brenda Harrison

Hounslow London Borough Council
Cllr. Tom Bruce

**Islington London
Borough Council**
Cllr. Richard Watts

**Kingston London
Borough Council**
Cllr. Diane White

**Lambeth London
Borough Council**
Cllr. Jennifer Brathwaite

Leeds City Council
Cllr. Lisa Mulherin

**Lewisham London
Borough Council**
Cllr. Chris Barnham and
Mayor Damien Egan

Liverpool City Council
Mayor Joe Anderson

Middlesbrough Council
Cllr. Janice Brunton-Dobson

Newcastle City Council
Cllr. Nick Forbes

Plymouth City Council
Cllr. Tudor Evans OBE

**Redcar and Cleveland
Borough Council**
Cllr. Craig Hannaway

**Rotherham Metropolitan
Borough Council**
Cllr. Gordon Watson

Salford City Council
Cllr. Kate Lewis

Sheffield City Council
Cllr. Jayne Dunn

South Tyneside Council
Cllr. Iain Malcolm

**Southwark London
Borough Council**
Cllr. Jasmine Ali

**St. Helens Metropolitan
Borough Council**
Cllr. Martin Bond

**Stockton-on-Tees
Borough Council**
Cllr. Bob Cook

**Trafford Metropolitan
Borough Council**
Cllr. Jane Baugh and
Cllr Ray Bowker

**Walsall Metropolitan
Borough Council**
Cllr. Chris Towe

**Waltham Forest London
Borough Council**
Cllr. Grace Williams

Warrington Borough Council
Cllr. Russ Bowden

**Wigan Metropolitan
Borough Council**
Cllr. Jenny Bullen

Wiltshire Council
Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE

Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr. Pauline Helliard-Symons

Supported by the School Cuts coalition:

Mary Boustead
Joint General Secretary
National Education Union

Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretary
National Education Union

Tim Roache
General Secretary
GMB

Dave Prentis
General Secretary
UNISON

Geoff Barton
General Secretary
ASCL

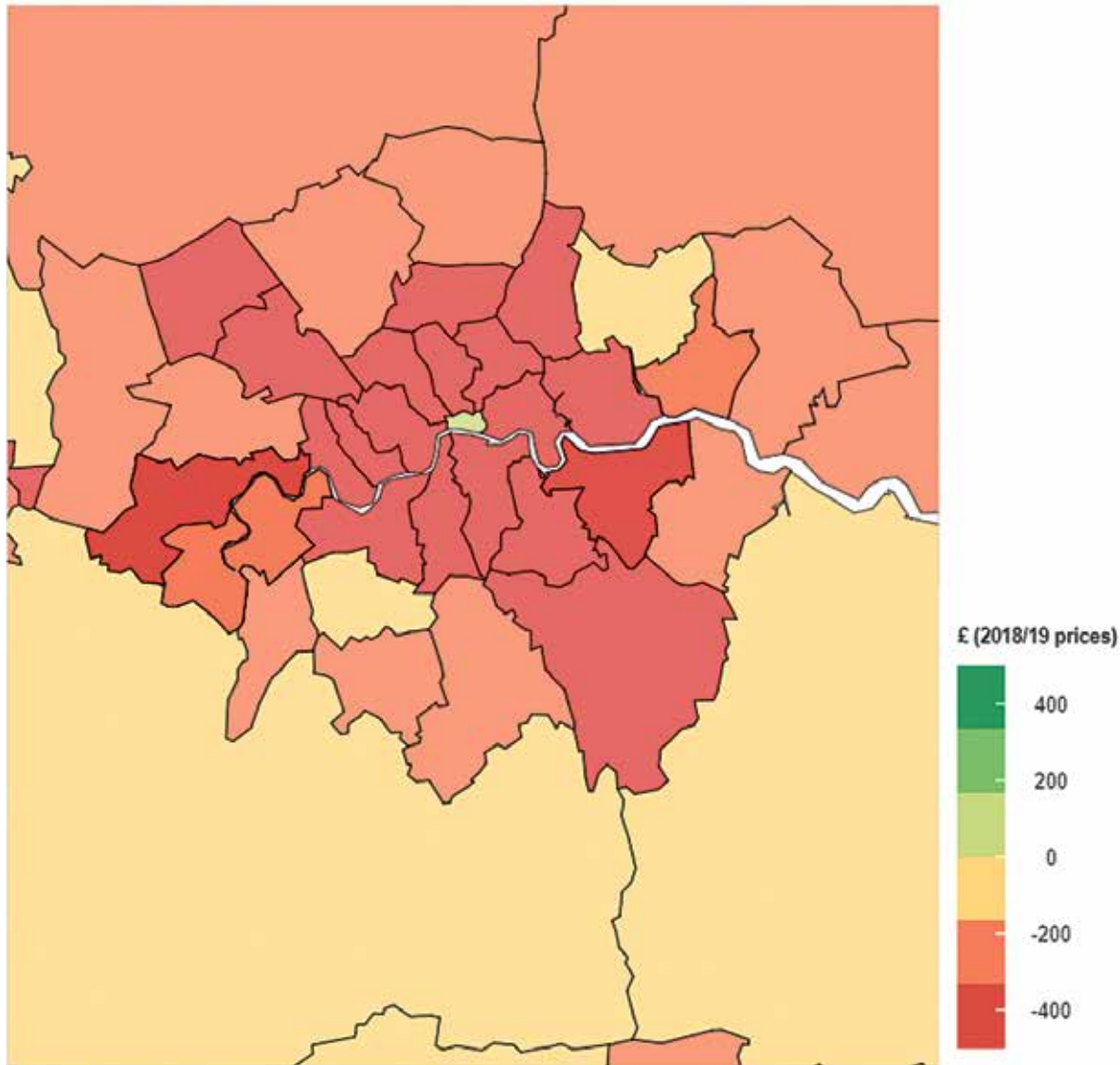
Paul Whiteman
General Secretary
NAHT

Len McCluskey
General Secretary
Unite



Funding cuts in London

Change per pupil 2015/16-2019/20

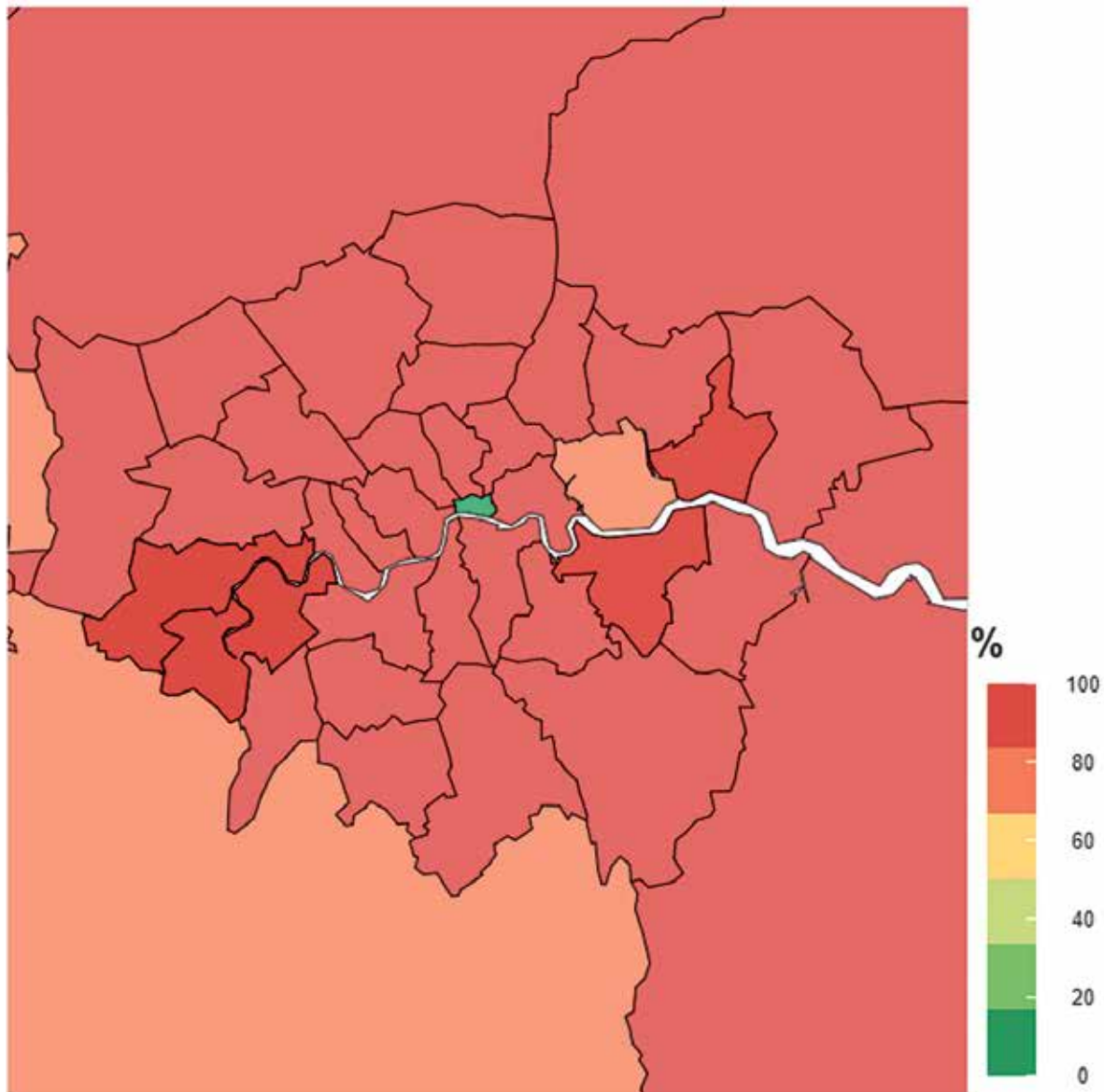


The above map depicts income per pupil change for 2015/16 – 2019/20 in London per borough. The darker red shows boroughs with a higher funding cut over this period. The yellow portions of the map represent less of a funding cut.

Everyone loses.

Funding cuts in London

Schools with per pupil funding cut 2015-2020



The above map shows the percentage of schools with their funding being cut in real terms per borough. The dark red, the worse the proportion of schools affected.

There is only one borough in London with less than 90% of their schools being cut and 13 boroughs where every single school is cut.

What next?

- The NEU's SEND Funding Campaign aims to ensure that this issue is kept in the public eye and the Government is forced to act on the concerns of local councillors, constituents, teachers and parents.
- As such we encourage you to undertake one (or all) of the following as a next step to highlight this crucial issue in the upcoming weeks:
 - Sign and publicise School Cuts' online SEND petition. This could include retweets or adding a link to your council's website.
 - Write to Damian Hinds, Secretary of State for Education, encouraging him to lobby to the Treasury on behalf of SEND children across the nation. Refer to the School Cuts open letter signed by 39 Local Authorities (included in this pack below), which calls for a rethink in SEND funding.
 - Join your fellow councillors in writing to your local MP and Damian Hinds, voicing your group concerns for SEND children and young people in your community.
 - Pass a motion.

My action plan

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2	
3	



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