



Glendermott Primary School & Nursery Unit

50 Ardmore Rd.,
Derry
BT47 3QZ

Phone: 028 7134 9489
Fax: 028 7134 8341
E-mail: info@glendermottps.derry.ni.sch.uk
www.glendermott.net

20th March 2019

Dear Parents,

Following our initial letter last September, we, the Derry/ Londonderry Primary Principals' Group are writing to give you an update on our on-going campaign to secure adequate education funding for your children and our pupils.

Since the release of our education funding crisis letter:

- An online petition was created and generated a response of almost 6000 signatures and this has been forwarded to Karen Bradley MP, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- A number of meetings have taken place with a variety of political representatives to highlight the exceptional financial pressures that schools are under currently
- Under the auspices of the Mayor's office a meeting was arranged with Derek Baker, the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and he listened intently to the concerns of principals and agreed to respond to the suggestions put forward by the principals
- Principals have met representatives of the NI Public Affairs Committee to provide information on the current education funding crisis within Northern Ireland
- **We are currently awaiting a response from Derek Baker to the suggestions that we put forward.**

Despite our actions there has been no progress made in relation to school budgets and the financial situation that schools are in has only got worse. None of the £39.5 million that came to education as part of the in-year monitoring round reached front line services in schools and just recently it has been announced by the Department of Education (NI) that school budgets for the 2019-20 school year will be less in real terms than the budget for 2018-19.

In order to support our campaign for your children and with the local council elections coming up on Thursday 2nd May 2019, it is likely that **political parties** will promote their campaigns by knocking on doors to look for your support. We would ask you to question these **representatives** about both their intentions to address this grave financial situation and also the actions that they have taken to date to address this matter. We have provided some suggestions that you might like to consider.

- **How is your party approaching the area of cuts to education budgets?**

Believe, Achieve, Together

- **How are our schools going to function effectively if they do not have enough money to pay for essential resources including teachers, classroom assistants and supervisory assistants? What is your party going to do about this?**
- **What is your party's position on education cuts impacting the funding for children with special and additional needs? What is your party going to do about this?**
- **Some schools are in need of essential maintenance and improvement works. If elected how is your party going to secure appropriate funding for this work?**
- **Within the education service it is recognised that substantial education funds never reach the schools. What is your party going to do to remedy this situation?**
- **What will your party do to support schools to meet the cost of essential services such as Counselling and Speech and Language intervention?**

In order to change this situation, it is vital that parents continue to support schools and consistently highlight the unacceptable and unsustainable financial situation within schools. We thank you for your on-going support.

Yours faithfully

The Derry/Londonderry Primary Principals' Group

Believe, Achieve, Together