



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
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Thursday 28th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with regards to the school's financial situation at Gayton Primary School. It is widely reported in the national press that school budgets are under increasing pressure and that, in many instances, Government funding is insufficient to meet the base educational costs. Consequently, schools are having to rely more heavily on fundraising activities in order to provide resources.

We are fortunate in having a very active and well supported PTA, which over the course of a number of years have raised a significant amount of money for the school. By way of example, this has been used to fund computer equipment such as iPads, classroom screens as well as reading scheme books and playground equipment along with many other necessary resources.

You may not be aware that, whilst there is a national minimum funding allowance of £3,500 per primary school pupil, some local authorities and schools receive more funding than others. There is a significant variation across Wirral schools as the local authority uses a funding formula, based on several complex factors, to determine the individual school allowance. Inevitably, this means there are some winners and some losers, with some schools receiving in excess of £6000 per child and others receiving the minimum of £3500 per child.

Gayton Primary School is in the bottom quartile of Wirral primary schools in terms of funding- 77% of schools on the Wirral receive more than the £3605 per pupil we receive. Across a school of Gayton's size, this creates a huge financial challenge. In the last two financial years, Gayton Primary School has been operating at a loss. Total expenditure has been exceeding income by approximately £15,000 per annum and this is anticipated to increase to £20,000 this year. With around, 200 pupils in the school, this represents a deficit of £100 for every child in the school.

The government has announced its intention to increase the national minimum funding allowance to £3750 per primary school pupil for 2020/21. Whilst we are hopeful of receiving an extra £145 per pupil next year, this will not solve the problem. Costs are set to increase by a larger amount still and the Governors anticipate a budget deficit of £31,000 next year.

I want to assure you that, whilst I am working closely with Governors to minimise costs wherever possible, I am determined not to jeopardise the quality of education we offer. Therefore, I would urge you to continue to support the school through our marvellous PTA and its varied range of activities. This is an invaluable way to raise additional funds for our school, thereby ensuring we are able to provide the best possible education for all our children.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support of the PTA and its events.

With kind regards,

Mrs McAleny

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