

School Funding – Briefing for Enfield Website

General

We support the principle of fairness and stability. However, we are not convinced that the proposals have struck right balance in achieving this. For a fair and stable funding system, it is important that sufficient funding is provided to meet the educational needs of all children and young people. For this reason, it is imperative that National Funding Formula ensures our schools and education services are funded at the right level based on need and not national averages that have been informed by historical under funding. Our view is that none of our schools or the Council should see a further cut in funding.

Mainstream Schools Block

We welcome the additional funding, which will support some of our secondary schools and academies, but we do not agree that this should be done by redistributing money between schools.

In Enfield, the redistribution of funding due to these changes will lead 60% of our smaller primary schools and academies seeing a loss in funding. Our schools have reported that this loss, after five years of a flat cash settlement, will lead to further reductions in staffing and increasing of class sizes.

We would reiterate that sufficient funding needs to be provided to our schools to enable them to support all the children and young people to achieve their potential.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

The High Needs block used to support pupils with SEND is demand-led: with the introduction of the SEND Reforms and use of Education Health and Care Plans, Enfield has seen a significant increase in the number of pupils with SEND requiring specialist educational support and has had to manage cost of this increase in demand with a huge impact on front line Council services.

After waiting four years, we do not believe the proposed national funding formula delivers a coherent needs led model to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people. The flaw with the proposed formula is that it is not based evidence and clear rationale that correlates with need. This is further exacerbated by providing insufficient funding to implement these changes.

If we are to support and succeed in our most vulnerable pupils achieving their potential, then it is important that additional money is provided to address the funding gap and this is then supported by a funding system, which keeps pace with the rising demand for SEND support.