

# Little Heath School

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Headteacher  
D J Ramsden, BA, NPQH

9 November 2018

Ms W Howells  
Schools' Finance Manager  
West Berkshire Council

Dear Wendy,

## Response to Funding Consultation

Please find below our responses to the questions posed in the consultation document.

Q1) Do you agree that WBC should apply the national funding formula rates for every factor, applying a minimum funding guarantee of 0% and funding cap on gains of 2%? If not, please let us know your reasons why. **YES, AGREED**

Q2) Or do you agree that WBC should apply the national funding formula rates for every factor, applying a minimum funding guarantee of -0.5% and funding cap on gains of 3%? **NO, NOT AGREED**

Q3) Do you agree that if there is additional funding available the minimum funding guarantee should be set between 0% and 0.5% with the increase in the cap on gains at 3% according to affordability? If not please let us know the reasons why. **YES, AGREED**

Q4) Do you agree that any shortfall or surplus in funding is addressed by scaling all formula factors downwards or upwards? If not, please let us know your reasons why. **YES, AGREED**

Q5) Do you agree that a top slice should be applied to all schools to support the High Needs Block? If not, please let us know the reasons why. **NO, NOT AGREED**  
**Schools are having to make difficult decisions in order to reduce costs, and have been doing so for some time. The same level of rigour needs to apply to High Needs and possible areas of saving which have been previously identified need to be pursued and acted upon, rather than invoking a top slice**



on schools. No specific justification has been provided in the consultation document as to why a top slice is essential. Proposing a top slice just because it is allowed under the 'rules' is not the same as providing a clearly thought out and justifiable rationale for doing so. The 'needs of the many' should not be further impacted by prioritising the 'needs of the few' via a top slice, without proper justification.

Q6) If your answer to question 5 is yes – do you agree with the amount as set ie £490K, which is the maximum allowable percentage without application to the Secretary of State? Or do you think the amount should be higher or lower – please let us know your reasons why. **N/A**

Q7) If your answer to questions 5 is yes – do you think the funding allocated per school should be in proportion to the school's funding as a proportion to total funding or the school's pupil numbers as a propotion to total pupil numbers? Please let us know the reasons why. **N/A**

#### Additional Funding Outside the School Formula

Q1) If you have any comments/suggestions on this proposal or the criteria set to access the other additional funds please provide details. **NO COMMENT**

Q2) If you do not agree with any of the above services being de-delegated, please let us know your reasons why. **NO COMMENT**

Yours sincerely



David Ramsden  
Headteacher



Rachel Hearn-Phillips  
School Business Manager