

MODEL LETTER 1

Dear Parent or Guardian,

'FAIR FUNDING FOR DEVON'

Some of Devon's schools are currently in crisis. The reason for this is the continued under funding of our rural county. **Devon Heads, Governors and parents** are uniting to raise this issue with Central Government. Did you know that Devon is one of the lowest funded Local Education Authorities in the country.

National average funding per pupil	£3,127
Devon's Schools average funding per pupil	£2,932
Total under funding per Devon pupil	£ 195

Devon's transport costs are	£17,5 million
Government's Funding for transport	£12,8 million
Total under funding of Devon Transport	£4,7 million

THIS SHORTFALL IS FUNDED FROM SCHOOL BUDGETS!

The aims of Fair Funding for Devon are:

- To get Devon's voice heard by uniting all those involved with education in a concerted campaign for fair funding
- To influence decisions made at government level
- To get the high cost of providing education in Devon recognised i.e. Rurality/Transport costs
- To encourage Estelle Morris to honour her commitment of bringing the lowest funded LEAs up to the National Average

Important national funding decisions are being discussed at this time, if we are to influence the Government we need to act now.

As a group we need to get the high cost of Education in Devon recognised, particularly the cost of transport. If the cost of transport in Devon was fully funded then Devon's schools would benefit to the tune of £4.7 million – an additional £50 per pupil!

If we unite we stand to make the greatest impact. Devon needs a fair share of national education spending. These inequalities have been recognised by the Minister for Education, we need to ensure that Estelle Morris honour her commitment of bringing the lowest funded LEAs, of which Devon is one, up to the National Average.

Please sign the petition in your child's school, commit to this campaign and help us to make a real difference for all Devon's children.

MODEL LETTER 2

Parent or Guardian,

FAIR FUNDING FOR DEVON DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO CONTINUE TO BE BELOW AVERAGE?

THE ISSUE IS ABOUT FUNDING.

Did you realise Devon schools are under funded compared to the national average?

Are you aware of the high cost of school transport in Devon?

If the cost of school transport was fully funded then Devon's schools would benefit to the tune of £4.7 million – an additional £50 per pupil.

Bringing Devon up to the national average per pupil funding would provide a further £195.

A total of £245 per pupil! Think of the difference that would make to our schools.

This could mean for our school a total of £245 x [enter pupil role]= £xxxx

This would mean:

- Smaller class sizes
- More support for special needs [enter school specific details]
- More educational resources

Above all more opportunities for your child.

WHAT ARE DEVON SCHOOLS DOING ABOUT THIS?

All 372 Devon schools are seeking the support of their parents and local community. Petitions in support of our campaign will be taken to 10 Downing Street. We must influence decisions being made at Government level for the benefit of all Devon's children.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Sign the petition.
- Return this to school by July 12th

The **FAIR FUNDING FOR DEVON'S SCHOOLS** campaign is being co-ordinated by the Devon Association of Primary Headteachers, Devon Association of Secondary Headteachers, Special Heads Association of Devon, Devon Association of Governors and PTA Devon.

Petition 2 (To be sent home with individual children)

FAIR FUNDING FOR DEVON'S SCHOOLS

We the undersigned wish to draw attention to the fact that Devon's Schools are under funded compared to the National Average. This inequality needs to be addressed in the current review of Education spending or Devon's children will continue to be disadvantaged. We urge Estelle Morris to honour her commitment of bringing the lowest funded LEAs up to the National Average and recognise the true cost of rural transport.

Name	Address	Signature

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NOTES FOR COLLEAGUES TO GET MAXIMUM IMPACT

Colleagues will have to consider their local circumstance when considering how to get the greatest number of petitions returned.

At a recent Head's meeting the following suggestions were made:

- Put in weekly newsletter
- Be outside school at the beginning and end of school day. Head/Governor/LSA/Parent?
- Have a parent assigned to each class to gather all signatures.
- Involve the School Council.
- Circulate to local pre-school providers.
- Put copy in local library.
- Put copy in Health Centre.
- Put in local shops and Post Office.
- Encourage local community to respond. This issue should not just be the concern of parents with children at school.
- Reward for class bringing greatest number of signatures.

ALL LOCAL PAPERS AND THE BROADCAST MEDIA WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A COPY OF THE PRESS RELEASE. BE PREPARED TO GIVE A LOCAL VIEW/COMMENT.

FAIR FUNDING FOR DEVON'S SCHOOLS

NAME OF SCHOOL

NUMBER OF SIGNATURES RETURNED

Please return all completed petitions to Gordon Aspland
DAPH Link Officer

Room 114, EAL, County Hall , EXETER

Or deliver to one of the regional representatives listed below:

Alan Junkison, West Croft Junior, Coronation Rd, Bideford, Devon, EX39 3DE

Charlie Werner , Foxhayes First School, Gloucester Rd. , EXETER , EX4 2EE

Len Peach, Decoy Primary School, Deer Park Rd., Newton Abbot, TQ121DH

Chris Powell, Okehampton Community College, Mill Rd., Okehampton, EX201PW

By 12th July

FACT SHEET

DEVON SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN FOR FAIR FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT

DEVON'S 372 schools are uniting to launch a campaign calling on the Government to give education in the county a fairer deal.

Headteachers, governors and parents will launch the campaign at a special protest meeting at the **Tiverton Hotel on June 27 at 2pm.**

Every school in the county is being asked to send a representative to the meeting to demonstrate the depth of feeling in schools.

They then plan to ask every parent in Devon to sign a petition which will be presented to the Prime Minister before the end of term. This will need to be returned by 12th July.

The campaigners say that Devon is one of the worst funded education authorities in the country.

Currently the national average funding for each school pupil is £3,127. In Devon the average funding is £2,932.

That is a gap of £195 per pupil. In an average secondary school with 1,000 pupils that equates to £195,000 - enough to pay for around eight teachers.

In an average primary of 200 pupils the gap amounts to £39,000.

Because of its rural nature, Devon has one of the highest school transport bills in the country.

Currently the bill stands at £17.5 million. That means over six per cent of the education budget is committed before a single child is taught.

The Government provides £12.8 million towards this, leaving a gap of £4.7 million. If the cost of school transport was fully funded centrally this would mean an extra £50 for every pupil in Devon.

Campaign spokesman, Brian Cunningham, who is Headteacher of Okehampton Primary School, said: "We are not asking for special treatment. All we want is a fair deal.

“Historically local education authorities in London and the South East have been given more Government funding because the cost of living was judged to be higher.

“But it costs roughly the same to employ a teacher anywhere in the country because of the national pay scales. Books and equipment cost the same. So do most of the running costs of a school.

“Yet Devon, which has some of the lowest wages in the nation, is being penalised to benefit the well-off South East. It’s been called Robin Hood in reverse and it’s time for us to be treated fairly.”

“This has been recognised by Estelle Morris. We need to ensure that her pledge to bring the lowest 40 funded authorities, of which Devon is one, are brought up to the national average, is honoured.

“That will really help us to make a difference for all Devon’s children.”

What you can do to help

1. Get maximum numbers signing the petition from your school (place copies in local library, post office, playgroup)
2. Return petition (with total number of signatories) to addresses above by 12th July
3. Write a letter to your local M.P. with copies to David Miliband and John Prescott (see addresses enclosed)
4. Send a delegate on 16th July to deliver the petition to Downing St.

David Miliband, MP
Minister of State for School Standards
Department for Education and Skills
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
LONDON SW1P 3BT

The Rt Hon John Prescott, MP
Deputy Prime Minister
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

EAST DEVON

Hugo Swire M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

EXETER Borough

Ben Bradshaw M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

NORTH DEVON

Nick Harvey M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

SOUTH WEST Devon

Gary Streeter M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

TEIGNBRIDGE

Richard Younger-Ross M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

TIVERTON & HONITON

Angela Browning M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

TORRIDGE & WEST Devon

John Burnett M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

TOTNES

Anthony Steen M.P.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

If you have any queries concerning which parliamentary constituency your school falls within contact
Peter Nash 01579 347950