



FlatCash Education *on the Doorstep*

A straightforward, non-political guide for parents and carers, to help you ask important questions of prospective Members of Parliament on the key issue of ensuring our schools are properly funded.

Each of the political parties will have their own response to these issues. This is an important opportunity for parents, carers and families to let them know what they feel is important.

Ensuring our Schools are Properly Funded

- Without adequate funding schools can't employ enough high quality teachers. Some are having to make teachers redundant because they can no longer afford to employ them.
- Schools are also having to make many support staff redundant. These staff often work with children with additional needs. In the years ahead there is a great deal of concern that some of our most vulnerable children will not receive the support they need.
- Increased class sizes is worrying for many because children are less likely to get the personal attention they need from a teacher who knows them well.
- Some schools are reducing the number of subjects they teach. This means the curriculum is narrowing and individual talents can't be nurtured in the way of previous generations.
- Many of the extra, wider curriculum experiences are being reduced either because the school can't subsidise them or increased workload for staff means it is not reasonable to ask them to keep doing more. These are the often experiences pupils remember and value about their time at school, for years afterwards.
- Some schools are struggling with leaky roofs, poorly maintained or decorated classrooms and in some cases unresolved health and safety issues.

Questions for prospective Members of Parliament/Local Councillors

- "How will you ensure that school budgets are protected in real terms for the duration of the next parliament? Please don't tell me that more is being spent on schools; we have more children of school age than ever and costs are rising"
- "Some schools are looking to create classes of 60-100 children in the school hall because they cannot afford enough teachers. What are you going to do to prevent that?"
- "Our children should be provided with a broad curriculum, great support and enriching activities. How will you ensure that my child has the educational experience they deserve if, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, school budgets are being cut 8% by 2020?"
- "How will you ensure education for children with Special Educational Needs is adequately resourced? A large deficit in this is detracting much needed funds from all schools."

Too often politicians of all parties have followed personal preferences rather than what really matters, creating the conditions to ensure high quality teaching for all students.

Regardless of your political persuasion, please use this opportunity to help hold our Politicians to account for the choices on school funding; *our children deserve it!*

For more information on the facts of the funding issue see our [Facebook Page](#) or Twitter @FlatCashEd.

