

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

29 June 2015

Dear Minister,

**RE: BETTER SUPPORT FOR PUPILS IN DEPRIVATION**

I wanted to highlight to you a concern being raised by Headteachers in Surrey about the effect of the Coalition Government's 2013 reforms to the school funding system. In particular, how deprivation is reflected in the funding formula.

While Surrey generally has low levels of deprivation, there are also pockets of significant disadvantage. Surrey was one of the first local authorities to identify deprivation as a significant factor in pupil attainment. In 2002 we reflected deprivation in our funding allocations through a tiered deprivation factor, which allowed us to allocate higher levels of funding per pupil to those schools with high numbers of disadvantaged pupils - an approach praised by inspectors as targeting areas of need more efficiently.

The Coalition's reforms mean we are no longer able to target funding where it is needed most through the tiered deprivation factor, but instead have to allocate funding on a consistent basis. In order to protect schools with high levels of deprivation from being significantly disadvantaged by the changes, and to continue to provide them with adequate levels of funding, we have had to set the level of deprivation funding per pupil at a higher rate. This has meant a sizeable transfer from Basic Entitlement funding provided to every pupil.

The overall effect of the Coalition's reforms has therefore been to reduce the funding that the most disadvantaged schools receive, as well as reducing the funding that other schools receive. The Coalition's reforms aimed to make the funding system fairer, simpler, more consistent and transparent. Our experience is anything but that.

I would welcome your comments on this and hope that you will agree to look at this issue as part of your review of the school funding regulations. I hope you will also agree to your officials meeting the Council's officers to discuss these concerns and possible changes to the formula which would give local authorities a greater degree of flexibility to support all pupils, including the most disadvantaged.

I am copying this to Sam Gyimah.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



**Linda Kemeny**  
Cabinet Member for Schools and Educational Achievement  
County Councillor - Woking South West Division