

Worth Less?



A Review of Worth Less?

Our fair and adequate funding campaign started in West Sussex and has now grown to comprise 30+ counties covering over 5000 schools and 3 million families.

We focus on improving funding and resource for low funded areas, but stress that this must not come at the expense of reduced funding for areas such as London.

The campaign has the umbrella title 'Worth Less?' and has a mantra of being 'relentlessly reasonable'.

Our key priorities are:

- Adequate and fair funding for all schools
- Significantly improved teacher supply
- Enhancing and supporting social mobility

We are entirely neutral in our political approach and have no affiliation to any professional associations.

Our use of statistics and public comment are rigorous and measured. We are collaborative in our approach and pragmatic enough to operate on a best fit model in terms of joint communication and action. As we tend to state the blindingly obvious we don't seem to run in to any problems regarding disagreements on strategy and actions.

We use a Joint Action Group – a primary, special and secondary Head teacher(s) contact from every county/area – who agree strategy and then keep other Heads in their area fully updated as to upcoming plans and actions. All contributions and help are gratefully received.

Our political links are now extensive, and through a shared effort we do seem to have made a difference. For three years, Worth Less? has made a significant impact in shaping an improved National Funding Formula and a reduction by £1.3 billion of intended government cuts. Crucially and as importantly, we have given our profession a 'grass roots voice' and more and more Head teachers are speaking out on behalf of their schools, children and families.

If Worth Less? has done anything out of the ordinary, it seems to have given hard pressed head teachers and schools a chance to say it like it is. We are not setting out to cause a revolution, but for too long, school leaders have been under pressure to accept poorly thought out and poorly evidenced strategy from political masters of all parties.

The proposed new National Funding Formula remains, however, largely unfit for purpose in our view.

Recently, we surveyed members and produced an unvarnished portrait of the challenges of funding and teacher supply that seem to be affecting so many schools (see below). We have the ability to get our views into the 'right hands' and this includes having extensive media links.

In January 2018 representative heads from Cornwall, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Essex and West Sussex met the Educational Select Committee chaired by Robert Halfon MP.

In November 2017, 100 heads representing 25 counties petitioned the Treasury and this appears to have been successful in terms of putting school funding on a high level of public awareness.

It is now our intention to really make a mark, by organising an (unprecedented) delegation of 1000+ head teachers to go to Downing Street on Friday 28 September under the hashtag **#stillnotlistening.**

Just ahead of the Autumn Statement we will promote the need for short term action such as fully funding any teacher or support staff pay awards, whilst also looking ahead to a far better overall financial settlement under the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Please find below some links to our recent work – November 2017 – May 2018:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/may/08/schools-national-funding-formula-worse-off-headteachers-survey>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-43484831>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQbFEuOd4jg&feature=youtu.be&t=9m49s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86P12Lu5u6U>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-42604157>

<https://www.channel4.com/news/schools-in-england-increasingly-reliant-on-donations>

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-views/parents-know-why-schools-need-our-financial-support-cuts-are-leading>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-41969961>

Whilst maintaining a neutral and separate identity has been the strength of Worth Less? we are also increasingly recognising the need to work alongside other groups – F40, associations, parents, NGA - who broadly share the same desires and aspirations of our own. By working together, we can have the greatest impact.

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