



# Angela Eagle MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Wallasey

Serving the communities of: Egremont, Leasowe, Liscard, Moreton,  
New Brighton, Poulton, Saughall Massie, Seacombe and Wallasey Village

Our Ref: AE38287

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

10 November 2022

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

I am writing on behalf of The Unity Federation, the governing board of the Castleway Primary and Nursery Schools in my constituency of Wallasey, to impress the need for an increase of education funding in the upcoming Autumn Statement.

The Unity Federation has expressed to me the difficulties they face in balancing their budget without having to make cuts that will limit their curriculum, teaching support and risk a decline in educational standards. Schools across the country are facing similar situations. As a result, education funding needs to be a priority in the Autumn Statement.

According to School Cuts, Castleway Primary School is facing a loss of over £35,000 in 2023-24, equating to £350 per pupil. This real-terms cut is more than double the per pupil loss of the average school in the country. More widely, 100 of Wirral's 110 schools face cuts of £5.2 million in 2023-24.

State schools have, for over a decade, faced tightening budgets year on year. Between 2010-2020, school spending per pupil in England fell by 9% in real-terms according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). This is the largest cut in over 40 years and took spending per pupil back to the levels of 2005 and 2006.

Additionally, following the Covid-19 pandemic schools face significant catch-up challenges, pressing the need for the adequate resourcing of education. The Government, however, has only provided £3 billion of the £15 billion reportedly recommended by the Education Recovery Commissioner.

As Chancellor, the new Prime Minister promised to restore real-terms per-pupil funding to 2010 levels. However, School Cuts maintains that schools now face a real-terms loss of £1bn next year due to rising costs. In August of this year, the IFS affirmed that this will lead to school spending per pupil to be 3% lower than in 2010.

Furthermore, the most deprived secondary schools in the country have faced larger spending cuts over time than the least deprived. According to the IFS, the most deprived secondary schools saw a 14% real-terms fall in spending per pupil between

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2009–10 and 2019–20, compared with a 9% drop for the least deprived schools. The 2019 and 2021 real-terms increases in education funding furthered this regressive dynamic by granting 3-4% larger funding increases for the least deprived schools than the most deprived between 2017-18 and 2022-23. In Wirral, 36% of children live in the most deprived fifth of the country. As a result, such funding settlements detrimentally impact children in my constituency relative to wealthier areas of the country.

The 2019 Conservative manifesto, in which the new Prime Minister has repeatedly recommitted himself to, states that ‘as Conservatives, we believe absolutely in equality of opportunity – the idea that every child, in every part of the country, should have a fair chance’. Can the realities of a 3% real-terms cut in education funding between 2010 and 2024-25, an insufficiently resourced Covid catch-up programme, and seemingly more favourable treatment of the least deprived schools be said to give every child a ‘fair chance’?

Instead, the current education funding settlements reinforce a reality that the 2019 manifesto condemns, that ‘talent is evenly spread in this country, but opportunity is not’.

The financial situation facing the state education sector, both in Wallasey and across the country, demands significant Government attention. Under-investment in education can only harm economic growth, social mobility, and efforts to level-up the country. I urge the Government to consider the points raised and the concerns of The Unity Federation prior to the upcoming Autumn Statement.

I have also written to the Secretary of State for Education.

I look forward to receiving your reply, which I will share with The Unity Federation and other schools in Wallasey.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angela Eagle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dame Angela Eagle MP