



**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
Secretary of State

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To all MPs in England

10 January 2020

Dear Colleague

### **CONTINUING TO IMPROVE AND INVEST IN OUR SCHOOLS**

In the election campaign, we set out a powerful vision for education, one that will unleash Britain's potential and level up opportunities across the country. At its heart is a relentless drive to secure the highest standards in every aspect of our education system, supporting early years providers, schools and colleges to ensure that all children have the opportunity to thrive.

As we head into the new year, I want to reflect on some of those programmes already underway that are making a real difference to improving schools across the country: our Opportunity Areas programme is routing additional support and expertise to some of the most disadvantaged communities around the country, while our Free Schools programme and the expansion of great education trusts continues to promote innovation and high standards throughout the school system.

#### **School Standards**

But we can go further still in building on the progress made since 2010. I am determined to leave no stone unturned, and no place left behind, in our pursuit of the best opportunities for our young people. This goes beyond our drive to see academic excellence everywhere. Our manifesto pledged: a new 'Arts Premium' for secondary schools, making sure that pupils have access to high-quality creative and cultural education; expanding our programme to help schools with the worst behaviour learn from the best; raising teacher starting salaries to £30,000; and additional investment to support primary school PE teaching to ensure that all pupils have the chance to enjoy an active start in life.

We have also launched a consultation on our plans to remove the current exemption from routine inspection for outstanding schools and colleges. I made this commitment in September last year, and it was reiterated by the Prime Minister during the recent election campaign and in our manifesto. Ofsted is the only body that is able to provide an independent and rounded judgement about a school's performance. It is important that parents, and schools themselves, have up to date information about performance and can have confidence that the high standards we all expect are being met.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, and Parliamentary approval, we intend to remove the exemption by September 2020. Under our proposals, all currently exempt schools will be inspected within five academic years, and Ofsted will prioritise those schools that have gone the longest without inspection.

## **School funding**

As we promised in our manifesto, we are levelling up funding across the country to ensure that all schools have the right investment to deliver an outstanding education. A total additional investment of £14bn across three years – the largest funding boost in a decade – will allow for a cash increase of £2.6bn to core schools funding from April 2020, with increases of £4.8bn and £7.1bn in 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively, compared to 2019-20. Our investment also includes an additional £780m in 2020-21 to support children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) – an increase of 12% compared to 2019-20.

We are also confirming that, at a minimum, every secondary school will receive at least £5,000 per pupil and every primary school will receive at least £3,750 per pupil next year, which will rise to £4,000 per pupil the following year. To ensure that schools fully benefit from this pledge, we will lay regulations later this month to ensure local authorities pass on these minimum per pupil funding levels to schools. As well as supporting the lowest funded schools, this marks an important step towards a ‘hard’ national funding formula – where schools’ budgets are set on the basis of a single, national formula.

We have already published schools, high needs and early years funding allocations for 2020-21 through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) [here](#) – demonstrating how this investment benefits all areas across the country. I have also attached a spreadsheet which allows you to see the increases that schools in your constituency are attracting under the schools National Funding Formula. Minister for School Standards Nick Gibb would be happy to meet with you if you would like to know more about the NFF and how it allocates funding for schools. Please contact his diary manager, Ms Jessica Vine, to agree the details. She can be contacted by email at: [Gibb-Diary.PS@education.gov.uk](mailto:Gibb-Diary.PS@education.gov.uk).

We now have a clear mandate for our reforms and renewed sense of mission - a unique opportunity to make changes to transform the lives and opportunities of a generation of children and young people. I look forward to working with you to deliver this vision and unleash Britain’s potential.



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**Secretary of State for Education**

*Attached: Spreadsheet - school level national funding formula allocations by parliamentary constituency*