

New Siblands Primary  
Gillingstool  
Thornbury  
South Gloucestershire  
BS35 2EG  
Tel. 01454 866754



Valuing every child through fostering independence,  
inclusion, trust, respect and support

New Siblands Secondary  
Easton Hill Road  
Thornbury  
South Gloucestershire  
BS35 2JU  
Tel. 01454 862888

Headteacher: Ms Carrie Osmond

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **New Local Authority cuts to pupil funding and the impact on our budget**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with much regret and sadness that I write to you about the local authority's proposed reduction to all our pupils' top up funding.

For some time, many local authorities (LAs) in England have been spending more money on 'high needs' than their budgets allow, including South Glos. The LA in South Glos has been reviewing funding for pupils with high needs in order to try to reduce a significant proportion of the deficit that they have built up.

Unfortunately, their plans involve reducing the top up funding to all pupils in South Glos special schools by 14% over the next 3 years. This equates to a 5% reduction in the first two years and 4% in the third, which would bring us to a much lower funding base than currently.

I am aware that there is much news in the public domain now that paints a different picture - about how the Government and even the local authority has increased funding for schools. We are challenging the LA because we are not seeing any increase, only planned reductions. So far, our challenge has delayed the LA's planned implementation of the cuts until April 2023.

The local authority will be sending out a communication to families soon.

#### **What will this mean?**

Cuts of 14% will mean that we will not be able to offer the same level of provision to meet our pupils' needs.

#### **What can you do?**

The local authority cabinet are meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March. It would be great if you could email or write to your local councillor and your MP to share your views.

You may want to use the wording at the end of this letter, or you can write your own message. To find out who your local councillor is use this link:

<https://council.southglos.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx>

A member of



DfE School Number 803/7031  
enquiries@newsiblands.org.uk  
www.newsiblands.org.uk



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If you are unsure, please ring the school office and they will help you with this.

We want to work with the LA to find a sensible and sustainable solution to special school funding in South Glos.

With best wishes,

Andrew Buckton

CEO Enable Trust

Dear (name),

My child attends New Siblands School and I am very concerned to hear that the LA is proposing a 14% cut to top up funding over the next three years. I urge you to look closely at the impact of these proposals to ensure that the standard of provision will not be affected and to reassure me that my child's needs can continue to be fully met at New Siblands.

I understand this goes to cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> March and I urge you to vote to delay the implementation of the cuts to give New Siblands time to work with the LA to consider the impact of this level of funding reduction more fully.

Signed:

A member of



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