



The Governing Body  
Buntingsdale Primary School  
Buntingsdale Park  
Tern Hill  
Market Drayton  
TF9 2HB

Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 19 October 2015

My Ref:

Your Ref

Dear Chair of Governors

Consultation on the proposal to submit an application to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2016-17.

As you may be aware local authorities are required to include within their local schools funding formula a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection. The MFG is designed to protect a school's per pupil funding from one year to the next. The Government has set the MFG protection at minus 1.5% for 2016-17.

Local authorities are able to request a disapplication of the MFG where there has been a significant change in a school's circumstances or pupil numbers and this leads to inappropriate levels of protection. The Government has previously approved requests from local authorities where the normal operation of the MFG would produce unintended results for very small schools with rising rolls.

As expected, Buntingsdale Primary School's change from being an infant school to a primary school has led to a significant increase in number on roll. The MFG protection has protected the level of funding to the per-pupil funding level received when the school was much smaller in terms of pupil numbers. This has led to a per-pupil funding level at Buntingsdale Primary School significantly in excess of other similar size schools in Shropshire. As detailed in the schedule attached to this letter the average per pupil funding level in 2015-16 of Shropshire schools between 55 on roll and 85 on roll, excluding Buntingsdale Primary, is £4,444.37. Buntingsdale Primary received £5,605.80 per pupil in 2015-16, £1,161.43 per pupil above the average for similar size schools.

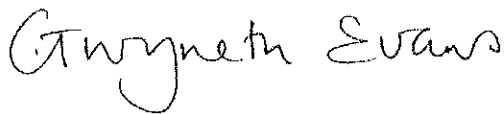
Pupil numbers at Buntingsdale Primary School have increased again and the October 2015 census recorded 72 pupils on roll, an increase of 10 (16%) on the previous year. The MFG protection received by Buntingsdale Primary, if allowed to operate normally, would be expected to increase to £76,888 in 2016-17. The local authority considers this

to be an unintended consequence of the MFG leading to significant inappropriate levels of protection at the school. The local authority therefore proposes submitting an application to the Department for Education to disapply the MFG for the financial year 2016-17 in relation to Buntingsdale Primary School. To avoid undue turbulence to the school's budget the proposal is to cap the level of MFG protection funding received by the school in 2016-17 at the level received in the 2015-16 financial year.

The proposal to disapply the MFG relates to the 2016-17 financial year only. Should numbers on roll at the school continue to increase as expected, the local authority will consider the need to apply for a disapplication for future years on an annual basis. The school and Shropshire Schools Forum will be consulted.

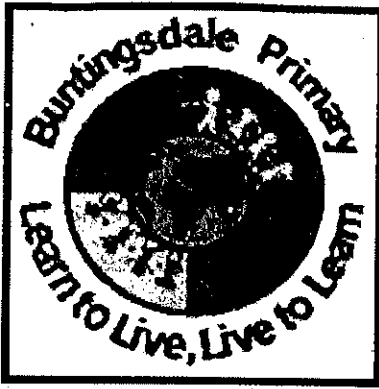
Your comments on the proposal are welcomed. Please return any comments to me as soon as possible but by Thursday 12 November 2015 at the latest to ensure they are fully considered before the application deadline.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwyneth Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gwyneth Evans  
Schools Funding Policy Officer

01630638971



# Buntingsdale Primary School and Nursery

Buntingsdale Park, Tern Hill, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2HB

admin@buntingsdaleprimary.co.uk

School website

[www.buntingsdale.shropshire.sch.uk](http://www.buntingsdale.shropshire.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01630 638370

Fax: 01630 638971

Headteacher: Mrs H. L. Alcock MA (Dev Ed) BEd (Hons)

Gwyneth Evans  
Schools Funding Policy Officer  
Shropshire Council  
Learning and Skills  
School Funding Team  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY2 6ND

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Gwyneth

The Governors considered the letter of the 19.10.15 regarding the minimum funding guarantee at their Finance & General Purposes Governors meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and support the local authority's proposal to submit an application to the DfE to disapply the MFG for 2016-17 as detailed within letter.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Revell

Chair of Governors

"This is a happy school where pupils behave well, are proud of their school and show positive attitudes to learning"

Orsted 2015

