



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

Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 21 October 2016

My Ref:

Your Ref

Dear Chair of Governors

Consultation on the proposal to submit an application to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2017-18.

As you are 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 2017-18.

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. You will be aware that, following consultation with your governing body and the Shropshire Schools Forum, the Department for Education (DfE) approved the local authority's request to disapply the MFG in relation to your school for the 2016-17 financial year, and your MFG allocation was capped at the previous financial year level.

This disapplication approval related to the 2016-17 financial year and our consultation with you last year explained that should numbers on roll at the school continue to increase, the local authority would consider the need to apply for a disapplication of the MFG again.

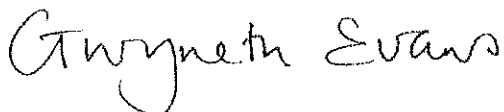
The increased number on roll at Buntingsdale Primary School, as a result of a change from being an infant school to a primary school, has led to a significant increase in number on roll. The MFG protection has protected the level of funding to the per-pupil funding level received when the school was 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.

Our data shows pupil numbers at Buntingsdale Primary School have increased to 81 at the October 2016 census, an increase of 9 (12%) on the previous years' census. The MFG protection received by Buntingsdale Primary School, if allowed to operate normally, would be expected to increase to £72,844 in 2017-18, from £69,658 in 2016-17. The local authority considers this to be an unintended consequence of the MFG leading to 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 2017-18 in relation to Buntingsdale Primary School. To avoid undue turbulence to the school's budget the proposal is to calculate the level of MFG protection funding for 2017-18 on the previous year's number on roll of 72. This would limit the MFG to around £64,750.

The proposal to disapply the MFG relates to the 2017-18 financial year only. 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 Friday 11 November 2016 at the latest to ensure they are fully considered before the application deadline.

Yours sincerely



Gwyneth Evans  
Schools Funding Policy Officer