

Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Keir,

I am writing to you as a Camden parent to express my concern at the continuing funding crisis in schools. This funding crisis has had, and continues to have, a deeply negative impact on Camden Schools, and the level of provision they are able to provide.

Schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resource to deliver the level of provision and support that young people and children deserve.

I am aware that at my child's school that:

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8%.
- Class sizes are rising across Camden schools which makes it increasingly difficult for the individual needs of students to be met. In addition to this, the curriculum is being restricted which threatens access to the broad and balanced learning students deserve.
- Increasingly, schools are being asked to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing. Reduced budgets mean that their resources are being stretched to meet a growing need.
- Often, the most vulnerable students in schools – those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - are bearing the brunt of cuts and without additional funding schools will continue to struggle to provide the levels of support that these students are entitled to. Since September 2018, Camden schools have seen a cut back in the amount of money paid for individual children's EHC Plans.
- Changes to funding in the Early Year Foundation Stage leave Camden nurseries vulnerable with less children on role.

The issues outlined above are not examples isolated to individual schools but they are common features throughout Camden schools.

I don't understand why the Department for Education continues to refuse to meet with and listen to the concerns of Headteachers despite their continued collective request that this happens. How can schools be run in a way that ensures that the needs of student are met without adequate funds?

Please raise these important issues with Damien Hinds. It is essential that the Department for Education adjusts funding to ensure that schools can meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Yours Sincerely,