

Press release

Headteacher Survey – The State of our Schools post the National Funding Formula

Worth Less? has gained a unique insight into the state England's schools and academies since the introduction of the new National Funding Formula (NFF).

A survey of unprecedented size and scope has gained the views of 1500 serving headteachers working in the special, secondary and primary sectors. Headteachers from Liverpool to Suffolk, through to Hampshire and Cornwall and most places in between have provided important quantitative and qualitative data on areas such as school funding, recruitment / retention and financial planning.

The headlines statistics below provide a powerful update on the struggle that thousands of schools up and down the country are facing. Headteachers have responded in massive numbers and this provides an unvarnished snapshot of life in England's schools today:

- To make budgets balance in 2018/19 **60% of schools reduced staffing by one or more teacher(s)**
- To make budgets balance in 2018/19 **80% reduced TAs / support staff by at least one – over 50% by 2 plus**
- 90% of heads stated that under NFF they have no financial certainty for 'meaningful financial planning' beyond 1 year
- **90% of schools use at least a portion of Pupil Premium funds to 'prop up core budgets'**. Half of the respondents use 50%+. **In other words, heads are stating that money targeted for the poorest and most needy families is actually having to be used to keep the school budget afloat**
- 92% stated that the DfE 'has no realistic idea of how much it costs to effectively run a school'
- 80% of schools that contribute to the Apprenticeship Levy don't get any benefit from it
- 15% of schools think that in real terms they are better off under NFF. **60% state that they are worse off.**

"In spite of prolonged rhetoric from the government, head teachers from schools and academies are stating unequivocally that their budgets remain in crisis and that teacher recruitment and retention has never been harder.

The fact that 90% of schools are using money (Pupil Premium funds) that should be serving our most disadvantaged pupils and families to 'prop up' their basic core budgets provides a stark reality as to how bad things are." Jules White.

For more information please contact:
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EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2018