



# Luckington Primary School

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Dear

I am the head teacher at Luckington Community School, a very happy and successful maintained primary school which serves the villages of Luckington and Alderton in your constituency. It is a very small school (52 pupils), which has consistently achieved very good results and has gained an excellent reputation within the area. Our numbers have increased steadily in the ten years that I have led the school. We are a dedicated and hard-working team, who pride ourselves on delivering something special that only such a small village school can.

By careful financial management we have always maintained a balanced budget, with even a small surplus for a contingency. However, over the last few years our budget has become tighter and tighter and support from the local authority, which is crucial to small schools like ours, is being reduced all the time. To meet the growing costs we have now scaled back on staffing until we have reached the point where we cannot do it any more without a serious impact on the standards that we are able to achieve. As we are such a small school, there are limits to how we can reorganise the minimal resources that we have; staffing costs make up over 90% of our budget. We are an experienced and happy team and our parents appreciate the consistency that this provides, but this makes us relatively expensive. We simply cannot cut back any more. Indeed, we are now being forced to fund-raise to pay for essential resources.

We believe that we would gain slightly from the proposed National Funding Formula, but as it is going to be introduced gradually, we feel that it will be swallowed up by the increasing staffing on-costs, apprenticeship levy etc. We do not qualify for the sparsity funding lump sum (an amount which would certainly solve our financial difficulties) as, despite having only 52 pupils, we are just within two miles of our nearest school.

I write to implore you to do what you can to support the survival of smaller rural schools like ours, which are so valued by their local communities, but are facing unprecedented financial difficulties. I would also invite you to come and visit our lovely school to see for yourself the work that we do and meet some of our delightful pupils and parents.

Yours sincerely,