



BENTLEY C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

24th October 2019

FUNDING AT BENTLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As you are aware from our newsletters, from the Governor updates and the wider media, our schools funding is at a current all-time low. There is additional money promised to come into primary schools in 2021 but over the last ten years our income has plateaued/fallen and costs have risen. As part of my commitment to keeping parents and carers informed I thought it would be helpful to share with you some information about the current status of our school budget. As I have been here at Bentley now for 6 years I have used this date to help benchmark.

	In 2013	In 2019
Our budget	£770,000	£755,000
Teachers (including the headteacher and SENCO)	13 teachers with 11 as fulltime equivalent	12 teachers with 9 as fulltime equivalent
Support staff	10 with 6.1 as full time equivalent	9 with 5.4 as fulltime equivalent

Changes in recent laws means we have had two additional costs to schools of staff pensions (£8840) and a new apprenticeship levy of (£2689). This forms an extra **£11,529** of our budget that has not been spent directly on the children since 2013 bringing down our already depleted funding.

We pay rates of **£22,954** annually. This year our budget for electricity of **£7,000** and **£4,200** for gas may need to be increased, due to the same rises which affect us all at home. Ours are obviously on a bigger scale and since 2013 our building has become larger so there is also more of it to heat.

We have many other **basic** costs which are all benchmarked and costed very carefully with best value always in mind at a county and school level. For example we pay **£16,000** a year for cleaning, including our annual services and daily cleaning all completely essential in a school. We also spend **£13,500** on our technology needs.

We are fortunate the PTFA give a £3,500 donation towards class resources, so each class teacher gets a budget of £500 to buy all the pencils, toys, books, consumables and other resources they need to support the whole class.

All expenditure is checked very carefully by me and our Finance Officer, Tracy Tewkesbury, before I authorise any purchase or set the budget. We review and benchmark regular purchases to get the best value at all levels of expenditure. Our spending is then monitored by the County Educational Finance team and it is all signed off by our Governor Resources Committee.

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In addition, we have now had two year groups coming into the school with a lower local and national birth rate meaning that we do not have 'full' classes of 30. This trend does affect our budget and it something which will have financial impact in April 2020 when our new financial year budget is allocated.

Our budget is published [here](#). There is a website with an email service which I find useful to get national perspectives and would recommend that you look at for their workings to show the cost of inflation as an impact on our budget. You can find it by clicking [here](#).

I hope this helps in explaining our current financial current situation. Please look out for more news on this from the school Governors next term and also by supporting our amazing PTFA to continue to raise money and build our community. By our school community working together we support our school. Your support makes the difference we need, to maintain our educational offer for every single child at our school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Mrs Pinchess, Headteacher