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Dear parent/carers,

I am writing to update you on changes to the way schools are funded.

You may have read recent news reports about the changes that have now been announced, so I wanted to take this opportunity to explain how we expect them to affect Stanford School and our provision for your child.

### The funding situation

The government has confirmed that a new national funding formula will be introduced from April 2018, in order to address long-standing variations in the funding of schools in different parts of the country. The formula aims to ensure that schools with similar contexts and pupil characteristics receive the same amount of funding.

Our actual funding has not yet been confirmed but based on the information we have at the moment, we expect that the National Funding Formula will not impact on our core funding; illustrative figures from the Department for Education suggest that our school baseline funding could increase by 0.4% in 2018/19 and 0.9% in 2019/20.

All schools are still facing rising costs due to, among other things, increases in the National Insurance and pension contributions that we have to make for staff. Inflation also means that the costs of resources and services that we buy are rising.

Our school also continues to have a high percentage of SEN pupils, Stanford Junior and Infant School has 17.8% currently identified with SEND needs. The 2017 national figure is 14.4%.

### How we are responding

We, like many other schools, are thinking carefully about how we can continue to provide your child with an excellent education in a sustainable way. For example:

- We have regular budget management meetings
- We have an experienced governor finance and personnel committee
- We source other income through fundraising and grant schemes such as the National Lottery
- We audit our resources and are externally audited by NELC
- We collaborate with other schools and academies eg sharing training costs
- We use best value and value for money during our procurement processes
- We review our staffing structure to ensure positive outcomes for our pupils

We are very proud of the high quality standard of education we ensure is in place at Stanford. The school performance data continues to be in line/above national standards. We have a challenging, creative and engaging curriculum which ensures pupils develop and use higher order thinking skills and benefit from learning opportunities for deeper thinking.

We are also lucky to have such a supportive parent community in our school. If you would like to offer your help and support please contact the school.

If you have any specific questions or concerns about anything covered in this letter, please contact Mrs Hackfath on the email or telephone number above. We will continue to keep you updated as we gain more information on what this means for our school.

Yours Sincerely

**Mrs L Hackfath**  
Headteacher