Chris Matheson MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Matheson

**CONSULTATION ON EDUCATIONAL FUNDING 2017**

I am writing to bring to your attention the difficult position which the Government’s policy on educational funding is placing Belgrave Primary School, which my child attends. I understand overall Cheshire West and Chester will face an educational budget cut by 2019 of £22.3m p.a., equating to £521 for each pupil. Belgrave School is expected to lose £424 per pupil as compared with this year’s budget, equivalent to a 10% cut. Furthermore, I also understand that increases in staff overheads through pension contributions are further raising costs.

Belgrave Primary School is a popular school which has the capacity to have 210 pupils on roll. *The class sizes are 30 as per the published admission number therefore the school cannot increase the pupil numbers which would be the only way to increase the budget. In any case I would not wish my child to be in a larger class size.*

*Our school’s PTA has worked hard to raise funds over the years and it has been noticeable that we are now funding essential items when previously the PTA funded extra-curricular opportunities and non- essential resources To keep a school functioning well a school needs to purchase up to date resources so that our children can be ready for the challenges that the future will bring.*

I find it difficult to see how a well-run school such as Belgrave can be expected to maintain the same quality of teaching when facing such cuts. I find it remarkable that a Government should believe it sensible to so reduce investment in education at a time when it is also stressing the importance of raising standards to ensure the long term competitiveness of the UK economy. Surely that starts with properly resourcing our children’s education.

Yours sincerely,

 (parent of a child at Belgrave Primary School)

*Italics indicates sections that can easily be personalised*