



Strandtown Primary School  
Parent Teacher Association

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, through letters from the school and reports in the media, Strandtown has been severely hit by the recent education cuts. Even with the recent budget settlement in Westminster, the situation remains impossible.

The school has lost £61 per student out of an already very tight budget – this is nearly **£70,000.00** in one year! When you compare Strandtown to a similar sized school in Scotland – the difference in funding is nearly £1,000,000.00 per year.

### **But what does losing £61 per child mean to your child?**

- Fewer school-costed classroom assistants (additional classroom assistants that the school pays for out of their budget)
- School are unable to carry out essential maintenance to the buildings and grounds.
- School are unable to resource key curriculum initiatives, for example, the purchase of digital technologies for ICT.
- School are struggling to meet operational costs, for example, photocopying charges.
- School are unable to carry out maintenance work to the technology in the school e.g. change the bulbs in the interactive whiteboards, replace outdated technology.

The Dept. of Education expects schools to take adequate cost saving measures by possibly increasing class sizes but with already large class sizes in our school, this is not a viable option at present.

Essential works to replace the P6 mobiles, create a new toilet block and increase accessibility to the school will start this school year however these funds CANNOT be used to plug the budget cuts in the school.

### **How can you help?**

- If your family are eligible for **free school meals**, please complete the application form available on the school website and return to the school (even if you don't intend availing of the free dinners). To get increased funding, Strandtown would need to have 20% of our pupils registered for free school meals. To reach the 20%, we would need another **15 pupils** to register. Registering can be done at any time of the year.
- **Support your PTA** fundraising events by attending, volunteering, donating etc.
- Do you have a **talent/skill/trade/interest/profession** that you think would benefit the school?
- Do you have contacts outside the school that could help us raise funds through **corporate donations or sponsorship or companies that have funds available through grant applications** for community initiatives?
- **Lobby your local MLA/MP or James Brokenshire** for an increase in the money given to the school per pupil. Either contact their offices direct or complete a sample letter and email or post it to their offices (sample letters will be sent out to all via e mail).
- **Sign up for e-mails/app** so that the school do not have to send notes home on paper (there is also a cost attributed to the photocopying)
- Contribute to the **school fund** (every little helps).
- Join the **Parent Focus Group**. This group contributes to the decision making of the school and the PTA by giving their feedback as your representative on new initiatives/ ideas etc.

This year our aim, as a school community, is to support the school's limited budget and reduce the impact these cuts have on our children.

We look forward to your support and if you need to contact anyone about the above, the PTA e-mail address is [strandtown@gmail.com](mailto:strandtown@gmail.com) or leave a message with Mrs. Savage in the front office.

**Strandtown Primary School PTA**