

11th October 2022



SAFFRON
ACADEMY TRUST

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Chief Executive:
Ms Caroline Derbyshire

To all Parents & Carers,
Saffron Academy Trust Schools

Dear Saffron Academy Trust Parents & Carers,

I wanted to write to thank so many of you for taking the time to raise awareness of the current funding crisis in English schools that has arisen as a consequence of rising utilities costs and underfunded salary increases. Our MPs report that they have received many letters from you, following my own letter at the beginning of September.

The effect of these letters has been felt. Both Kemi Badenoch and Priti Patel arranged meetings to discuss this matter with me and I felt both listened to our concerns and have promised to raise the issue directly with Ministers.

In the meantime, I have to report that the situation has only improved very slightly. The recent capping of utility prices under the government's help for business scheme has lessened the impact of cost increases but is only officially in place for 6 months. These caps only apply to the wholesale prices, whilst retail prices (the ones we pay) remain much higher even than the 100% increase (compared to last year) that we budgeted for.

In addition, the supplementary grant given to schools to fund pay increases still leaves a significant cost for our schools to manage and no final agreement has been reached yet regarding pay adjustments for teachers or local government employees. Looking to find considerable within-year savings is now a reality in schools across the country and ours in Saffron Academy Trust are no exception. In recognition of this national crisis, the professional associations and unions have written to the Government to demand that salary settlements are fully funded.

Thank you, as always, for your support, during this challenging period.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Derbyshire

CEO, Saffron Academy Trust