



Grappenhall Heys
Community Primary School

| FINANCE NEWSLETTER – July 2019

As we look to the new financial year, the Governing Body wanted to update our school community on how it is continuing to respond resourcefully to the increasing financial challenges in education. Already over the last three years, a number of initiatives have been implemented to address these challenges whilst always trying to keep the impact on the daily life of school to a minimum.

Budget Allocation

At present, the budget is allocated to the Local Authority by Central Government and then delegated to schools via a locally agreed formula. Factors that make up the formula are varied but include the number and age of children, pupil premium and nursery funding as well as the number of children with Special Educational Needs or those who are entitled to Free School Meals.

The Budget for 2018/19 was £974,351. Once we have paid our valuable staff and maintained the building, we have 8% or £78,000 left to spend on all other items including learning resources, ICT and ongoing expenses.



The budget is constantly under scrutiny and reductions in spend is made wherever possible, recently this included photocopying and postage. For example using online materials and limiting colour printing has reduced costs from **£52 per pupil to £16 per pupil** over the last 12 months.

The school is benchmarked against other similar schools across Warrington and for the last reported year (2018), it was amongst the most poorly funded at **£4464 per pupil** compared to the highest in the group at £5989.

Against this income of **£4464** per pupil the school spends **£4927 per pupil** with the difference being funded by income generated by school.



Each year the Department for Education allocates funding to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. The Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) is made up of a fixed sum and a variable amount based on pupil numbers. Full details of the calculation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding> Last year the school received **£6549** and an additional one off payment during the year of **£10274** as a result of the Government putting an additional £400m into the Schools Capital Fund. This is ringfenced for Capital Build or ICT projects. It was used this year to fund the library building work and install an essential upgrade to the wireless system for use by all pupils and staff.



“Bringing books to life!”

The 2nd of April 2019 saw the opening of the new school library, a project that was nearly a year in the making and would not have been possible without the contribution of our children, teachers, parents and the community.

Due to the funding limitations and restrictions on how each stream of money within the budget can be spent, our school environment would not look as wonderful as it does without the generosity of our school community to continually support fundraising and participate in the physical effort of creating the space.

The majority of the Library project, including the new books, was funded through generous contributions from Friends of Grappenhall Heys. Their continuous efforts to create funding raising opportunities are very much appreciated.

Miss Yau has set up a crowd funding page (<https://rocket.fund/p/grappenhallheys5/>) to raise a further £2500 for 5 computers for the new library.

This will assist in introducing a web based library management system-“Junior Librarian” where students will be able to scan books in and out as well as reserve and review books online. Staff will also understand childrens literacy interests at a deeper level and guide reading time using this software.



For 2018/19 we received **£20,810 in PE and Sports Funding**. This is funding for schools to make additional and sustainable improvements to the physical education, physical activity and sports offered to our children. Details of the allocations can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools>. A key focus for this funding is the promotion of daily physical activity and the school is very proud of the variety of opportunities it offers to develop our childrens’ long-term love of physical activity in its many various forms. Health week is an annual celebration of this and within our weekly curricular activities this year staff have explored the holistic benefits of gymnastics, dance and yoga. As well as a continued expansion of hosting and attending different sporting festivals, our children are experiencing rich daily opportunities to be active in the playground. Next year we are looking to support our children in KS2 to become playleaders and support engagement between one another at break times.

For 2018/19, we received **£20,575 in Pupil Premium**. This is funding to support disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to achieve. Details of the allocations per Child can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>. 98% of this was used to fund Teaching Assistants and Teaching Support hours with the balance going towards educational visits, a uniform package and after school clubs.



The Budget for next year is £987,721 which is a 1% annual increase. As you can appreciate the cost of most goods and services are rising with inflation which is in excess of 1%. Despite having the minimum level of Teaching Assistants, 83% of the budget is allocated to employee costs. Work continues to review the maintenance costs of the building but these still remain at 9% of the overall budget which again leaves 8% to cover all remaining expenditure. The majority of discretionary expenditure has already been reduced to a minimum with further significant reductions unlikely. **The future focus** is on increasing income generating opportunities and we welcome all ideas and suggestions from Parents, Friends and Governors regarding this. We are currently being as resourceful as possible to update our EYFS outdoor space.

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