Report from Danehill Primary School

March 2017

All education institutions across the UK are being hit by significant cuts from central government and it is these cuts and lack of investments that have led to a critical funding crisis for schools. Schools must reduce spending by 8% per child by 2020 (to the tune of £3billion in cuts) – this is the biggest real term cuts in a generation. Danehill School has been significantly affected by these cuts in education and also due to its rural geographical location. Please see *Minutes and Meetings* section of the PC website and click on *Additional documents* for 24/11/16 <http://www.danehill-pc.org/Full_Council_6741.aspx> *Funding Proposal from Danehill Primary School to Danehill and Chelwood Gate Parish Council.*

The PC voted to provide a £10,000 grant for the school in a time of forced financial difficulties and alongside the school’s fundraising campaigns they have been able to raise £60,000. The school wanted to thank the PC and the parishioners for all that they have done to help support the school in their fundraising campaign in such a short space of time. The community has come together so that the school can continue to provide an outstanding educational experience to its children.

This is not a problem unique to Danehill School, and every day there is more and more media coverage relating to the school-funding crisis and its impact across the country. However, the support shown by the local community was identified as a key factor in the decision of the local education authority to not reduce classes from 4 to a 3 class structure. Research shows that this course of action could result in a ‘downward spiral’ ending in the closure of a school with falling pupil numbers, declining standards, and so no prospect of increasing pupil numbers to increase funding. With this commitment from the local education authority this allows the school a year to look into and action a more sustainable solution to address the adverse financial impact of the newly proposed National Funding Formula. This work includes increasing school numbers through a robust and improved marketing campaign, exploring opportunities for working in partnership with other schools to reduce costs and to enhance the quality of the education provided to the children. Working with other schools collaboratively, or as part of a Federation, or even as part of a Multi-Academy Trust are all options that are being currently being researched.

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Review of progress as of March 2017:

* Fundraising campaign has seen the school raise £60,000
* As a result of this, the local education authority has agreed to allow the school to continue with a 4 class structure.
* Initial reports from the school identify a 20% increase in school admissions for Reception class in September. Note - this could increase as final figures are yet to be published.
* There is an overall 10% increase in pupil numbers attending the school in September 2017 – this could increase before September.