



Budget – pupils, parents and staff face dire hardship November 2022

Now the dust is starting to settle on the Government's budget two things are clear.

Education is still facing cuts

The Westminster Government's budget included an announcement of an extra £2.3bn a year for schools in England, and no extra money for early years and post-16 education. The extra money only came about due to campaigning by unions, parents and employers. In schools, per-pupil funding will only go back to 2010 levels at best. In early years and colleges we do not even have this much. The funding does not take any account of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts of future inflation. Education is therefore still facing a large funding gap with huge cost pressures from energy and other rapidly rising prices. There will also be a dangerous cliff edge in 2025 when this funding is due to end; leaving the sector unable to plan beyond that. There is additional uncertainty regarding whether the support for energy bills will continue beyond April next year.

This comes on top of the twelve years of cuts that the education sector has been forced to make under this government – there is simply nothing left to cut.

Pupils, parents and staff are facing dire hardship

Children, learners, families and education staff face an even worse cost of living crisis as a result of this budget. Further hikes in energy bills, increasing taxes, mortgages and rents combined with falling real terms wages will lead to the biggest drop in household incomes on record according to the OBR¹. Further, the Institute for Fiscal Studies says that the Government's funding allocations are based on a 'maximum' 2% pay increase for public service workers.

We are therefore going to see:

- More children and young people being too hungry and cold to learn.
- More staff using foodbanks, and forced to look for better paid work elsewhere, leading to damaging staff shortages across the sector.
- Schools desperately short of funding and forced to make incredibly difficult decisions.

For pupils, families, schools and staff, this is Austerity 2.0.

¹ [Household disposable incomes are heading for their biggest fall on record | Business News | Sky News](#)