

[Your Organisation Letterhead]

[Your Organisation Name]

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Date: **Insert**

To: Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, and Governing Bodies

Local Authority Maintained Schools in the Dorset Council Area

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors,

Subject: URGENT CALL TO ACTION: Securing Fairer Funding for Dorset Pupils – Support for the F40 Campaign

I am writing to you today regarding the critical financial disparity faced by our schools, particularly concerning **core per-pupil funding** and the **High Needs Block (HNB)**. As chair of governors at Cheselbourne Village School and a parent of a child attending mainstream school I feel this is a rally that has the potential to benefit so many parties within education in Dorset. Especially the children and young people of this county.

Dorset Council is a long-standing member of the **F40 campaign group** (<https://www.f40.org.uk/>), which represents the lowest-funded local authorities for education in England. Despite national funding reforms, our wonderful pupils continue to receive significantly less funding than the national average, placing immense, unsustainable pressure on our ability to deliver a high-quality, inclusive education.

The Challenge: Unfair Funding for Dorset Pupils

The core issue is twofold, directly impacting every maintained school in Dorset:

1. **Gross Block Funding Disparity:** Dorset schools remain among the lowest funded per pupil nationally. This lack of core funding means less money for teaching staff, services and essential school resources compared to other areas.
2. **High Needs Block (HNB) Crisis:** The HNB, which funds Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision, is chronically underfunded in Dorset. The cost of providing statutory support for pupils with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) is

far outstripping the funding received from the government. This deficit is now so severe that:

- It compromises schools' ability to provide **timely and effective support** for our most vulnerable children.

- It forces the Local Authority to consider actions that impact **mainstream school budgets** to cover the HNB deficit, creating a vicious cycle of underfunding across the entire school system.

Action Required: Lobby Your Local MP and Submit Support

We must now intensify our lobbying efforts to our local Members of Parliament to demand a commitment to **Fairer Funding for Dorset** and to support the F40's key campaign asking for immediate reform.

Our joint Key Asks to the MP will Include:

1. **Demand for High Needs Block Deficit Resolution:** We urgently call for **ring-fenced central government funding** to clear both historic and current High Needs Block deficits in Dorset. Without this intervention, the escalating financial pressure will jeopardize the sustainability of statutory SEND provision and the wider education system.
 - a. **The Local Authority is meeting its statutory obligations, but doing so places severe financial strain on them that could ultimately lead to insolvency, threatening essential public services.**

2. **Support F40's Fairer Formula:** Push for urgent changes to the **National Funding Formulae (NFF)** to remove historic unfairness and ensure that Dorset pupils receive funding that genuinely meets their needs, aligning the funding levels for all pupils with those currently better-funded areas.

3. **Prioritise Core Funding:** Stress that a minimum level of core school funding is essential to maintain inclusive mainstream provision, which is the primary form of support for the majority of pupils with SEND.

Below are the Members of Parliament we shall write to when support has reached its desired target to hopefully invoke a discussion at government level.

Constituency	Member of Parliament	Email Address
South Dorset	Lloyd Hatton MP	lloyd.hatton.mp@parliament.uk
North Dorset	Simon Hoare MP	simon.hoare.mp@parliament.uk
West Dorset	Edward Morello MP	edward.morello.mp@parliament.uk
Mid Dorset and North Poole	Vikki Slade MP	vikki.slade.mp@parliament.uk

COORDINATED CAMPAIGN SUPPORT

If your school and governing body are in support of this campaign please email a copy of the supporting letter (with any confidential school-specific data redacted) to [Advice from forum members on best way for schools]

We will collate all submitted letters to demonstrate the unified, locality-wide level of concern and collectively submit these to all four Dorset MPs, maximising the impact of our campaign.

We understand the pressures on your time, but a unified voice is our strongest asset in securing the necessary investment for our children. Please ensure this issue is also discussed at your next Governing Body meeting.

For more information on the F40 campaign, please visit: <https://www.f40.org.uk/>

For any queries, please contact Jon Möller on jonmoller-gov@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Möller

Chair of Cheselbourne Village School

