Dear

**Inadequate School Funding**

As a parent/parents of a child attending St Anne’s Catholic School and Sixth Form College I would like to express my concern about the inadequate funding received by the school. The cut in the General Annual Grant of £1,047,139 since 2013 means that the funding per pupil has been reduced by £ 812. This is unacceptable, particularly as it seems costs have increased even faster than the funding has been cut. The school now faces a further £60,000 increase in costs this year as a result of the latest externally enforced higher employer’s pension contributions and the payment from the Government to ‘fully fund’ the recent pay rise will be £ 35,000 less than the actual cost. This is also unacceptable.

If you visited the school, you may see the impact around the site of a roof badly in need of repair. St Anne’s has twice been refused the necessary funding for urgent repairs to the roof through the Condition Improvement Fund. The bid has been submitted for a third time together with a bid for funding to repair failing windows this year. I/We would be grateful if you would make representation to the ESFA to support the success of these bids.

St Anne’s grew by 8% last year and staff applied for additional funding to provide for these additional pupils in accordance with the Academy Funding Agreement (Point 48). I/we would be grateful for your support in securing a clear explanation why this application was refused. The ESFA took 16 months to make the decision and the reasons for the refusal do not make sense. Why was the possible adjustment as described in the funding agreement not made when the addition of 78 pupils is double the 4% benchmark for additional funding and the case for a ‘significant impact on costs, such as an extra class’ is clear? The school managed the financial situation well in extremely difficult circumstances and following advice from the ESFA made savings to ensure the budget did not fall into deficit, yet not being in deficit was subsequently given as a reason to refuse the application. There is no mechanism available to appeal this decision or to complain about the process. This is both unfair to our children and unacceptable.

St Anne’s is an outstanding, oversubscribed school that has been confirmed as the highest performing school in the city and the 2nd highest performing school in the Southampton, Hampshire and Portsmouth area. The school community do everything they can to support the 1,200 girls and boys on roll to achieve even more than they thought possible, preparing them extremely well for their next steps in life. They achieve these excellent standards despite the £1,047,139 cut in funding and the equally high increase in costs in recent years. However, in common with many schools across the country, St Anne’s is approaching the point where there will be nothing left to cut.

I/we hope you will strongly represent our concerns about inadequate funding for our school and I look forward to hearing about the steps that will be taken to rectify the situation, particularly in preparation for the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Yours sincerely,

Parent/s of a child attending St Anne’s Catholic School and Sixth Form College