

St. Colman's Primary School

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*Learn together, play
together, thrive together.*

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School Funding Update

Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday, schools were informed that the funding for two of our most beneficial support services ends today, meaning we can no longer offer this provision to our children.

'Engage' was an initiative that allowed us to employ a teacher to support those children who needed some additional help with their learning. We were extremely fortunate to have Miss Garrett who worked with so many of our children over the last couple of years, building confidence and developing reading and writing skills. Those of you, whose child attended sessions with Miss Garrett, will appreciate the impact her work had, and it is devastating that this can no longer be offered to any more of our children. Miss Garrett has been such a valuable member of our team and her expertise in Literacy intervention has played a vital role in ensuring our children achieved their best.

'Healthy Happy Minds' was another initiative which allowed us to employ a counsellor in school to help support the emotional health and well-being of our children. Again, we were very lucky to have the lovely Helen with us from January of 2022. She provided counselling sessions and play therapy for those who needed it and made a huge difference to the children she worked with.

Alongside this, we are facing huge financial pressures over the time ahead. Our yearly budget has been cut significantly and we recently learned that the Cycling Proficiency Scheme for P7s will no longer be funded. Another cost saving measure is that vital food payments for families in receipt of Free School Meals will no longer be made over holiday periods.

To say we are devastated to lose these vital support services is an understatement, however our priority will always be achieving the best outcomes for our children. As such, we will continue to seek opportunities to support all our children in the best way possible.

Our parental support is an essential ingredient to our school's success, and I know we will continue to receive that despite the pressures education is facing at the moment. I would like to reassure you that we will do everything in our power to mitigate the effects of these cutbacks on our children.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Ms Maeve Savage
Principal