

Covid-19, Funding and MNS



Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) in England provide the highest quality early education to some of our most vulnerable children. MNS are staffed by qualified teachers and SENCOs so have higher running costs than Private, Voluntary, Independent providers (PVIs)

There are only 389 remaining MNS and all are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. MNS continue to deliver first class early years education despite severe cuts to their funding; financial pressures that have only intensified during the pandemic. The pandemic has inevitably been a huge strain on school budgets. The government's response has been to provide schools with additional funding to cover some their Covid19 costs. **However, MNS were not permitted to access this additional funding, despite over 70% of MNS remaining open during lockdown.**

Since 2015, MNS have had to rely on supplementary funding (not linked to inflation) from the DfE to remain open. Without sufficient long-term funding, MNS will close and thousands of children and families will lose access to high quality early education, which every child deserves, especially those in poorer, disadvantaged areas who benefit the most from teacher led early education

Since lockdown:

- 71% of state nurseries remained open during lockdown, welcoming children from other settings which had closed, caring for key worker and vulnerable children. For those who remained home, MNS worked to provide remote support.
- MNS settings have ensured their settings are covid-secure and remained open despite no extra funding or resources from government.
- MNS have continued to provide an excellent education to their pupils, many working with deficit budgets caused or made worse by the pandemic.

What the government have failed to do:

- Extend the business rates holiday to MNS.
- Make access to CJSR easier for MNS settings who are both state funded and dependent on private income.
- Provide any additional funding to MNS to cope with added costs incurred by covid-19, such as additional cleaning materials and cleaning staff.
- Give MNS access to the £1billion extra money for schools due to the pandemic.
- Provide additional money to compensate for the loss of revenue from parent-paid fees and other income sources, which many MNS have come to depend on.

What this means:

- An average of £36k lost income from parent paid fees *
- An average of £4k additional costs for cleaning and staffing during the pandemic*
- Over 60% of MNS are expecting an in-year or increased deficit on their budget because of the pandemic*

Key Demands:

- That the government immediately provide emergency funding to MNS to cover additional costs incurred due to covid-19.
- Agree and implement a long-term funding formula as soon as possible.
- The government maintains the funding allocations for MNS in January 2021 and continues to fund on 2019/20 pupil numbers.

What you can do:

- Contact your MP and ask that they stand up for your MNS in parliament and impress upon the Chancellor and Treasury the importance your school plays to your pupils and local community. Explain how you have been coping with funding cuts and the pandemic and why it is so important that the government prioritise MNS funding and provide more resources so you can continue doing the great work you do. Encourage your parents to do the same.
- Share this leaflet with your MP
- Share this leaflet with your parents and community and encourage them to contact their MPs
- Find your local MP here: members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP

Did you know?

- A 5litre bottle of hand sanitiser costs £50!
- Teachers starting salary nationally is circa £24k
- Support staff starting salary nationally is circa £17k