
SPECIAL MOTION NO. 7 – THE GOVERNMENT’S INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION CATCH-UP WILL COST OUR COUNTRY FAR MORE IN THE LONG TERM

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Larry Culhane
- (ii) Councillor Alexandra Sanderson

This Council is:

- Deeply grateful for the incredible effort throughout the pandemic made by the borough’s schools, who have remained open for key workers and vulnerable children while also implementing blended learning to support children at home to learn while playing their part in tackling the pandemic.

This Council notes:

- Children’s education and development have suffered as a result of government mismanagement of schooling throughout the pandemic;
- The Prime Minister and Chancellor are spending far less on catch-up lessons for school children than other leading nations and have refused to find more than a tenth of the sum recommended by the government’s own education recovery commissioner, Sir Kevan Collins;
- Sir Kevan resigned on 2 June, writing to the Prime Minister that he did "not believe it is credible that a successful recovery can be achieved with a programme of support this size".
- Sir Kevan also said the government package of support “falls far short of what is needed. It is too narrow, too small and will be delivered too slowly. The average primary school will directly receive just £6,000 per year, equivalent to £22 per child. Not enough is being done to help vulnerable pupils, children in the early years or 16-to-19-year-olds.”

This Council regrets:

- The government’s failure to deliver on its promise that all children affected by digital poverty would be provided with laptops to continue their education while at home; and
- The government’s parsimonious and short-sighted attitude to our children’s future.

This Council calls on the Chancellor and Prime Minister:

- To increase the funding allocated for catch-up education to the level recommended by the government's education recovery commissioner.
- To deliver on their promise and end the digital divide experienced by children in our borough and across the country.