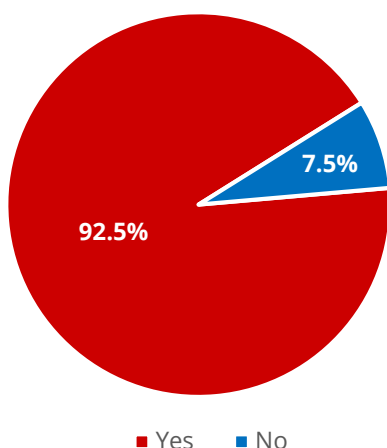




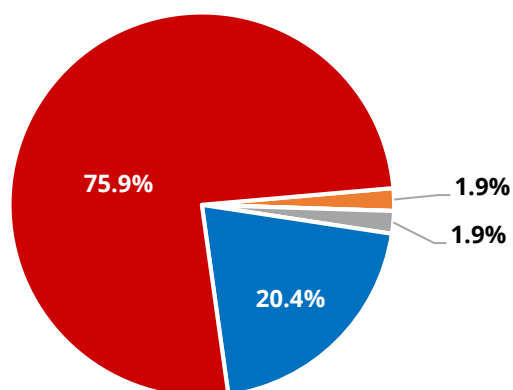
# CROYDON SCHOOLS SURVEY 2017

Compiled by Sarah Jones MP in association with the  
Croydon Headteachers Association (CHTA)

**Have you had to make staffing cuts due to funding pressures?**

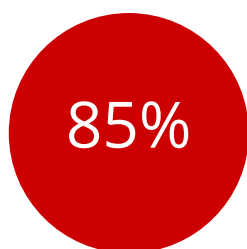


**Please describe your level of satisfaction with your school's current funding situation:**

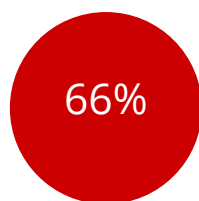


Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very unsatisfied

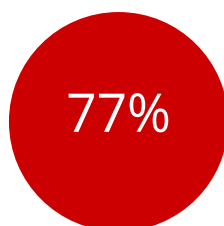
**Since 2015, Croydon headteachers report cutting spending on...**



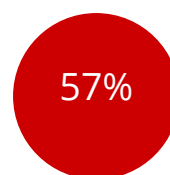
SEN provision



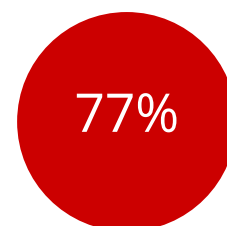
Books & equipment



Teacher training  
& support



Cleaning &  
maintenance




External student  
support e.g.  
mentoring


### Other cuts made to school services since 2015:

- **57%** of schools surveyed have cut extra-curricular activities
- **52%** of schools have made cuts to school trips
- **25%** of schools have cut parental support services

### Types of staffing cuts:

 **73.6%** of schools have cut  
teaching assistants

 **35.2%** of schools have cut  
SEN staff

 **34%** of schools have cut  
teacher numbers

### Testimonies from headteachers (anonymised):

"The poor funding in Croydon makes recruitment and retention very difficult, which has an impact on the quality of teaching and learning. Experienced teachers leave for better funded schools within inner London, yet we are dealing with the same societal issues, with far less funding to do so. It is cruel and unfair. The funding provided does not allow the kind of pastoral care and support that the children of Croydon deserve, which could explain why gang violence and knife crime are so much on the rise in the Borough. Nor is there sufficient funding to properly support children with mental health issues in school - and this will add to social problems in the future."

"We have reduced our buildings and maintenance budget significantly and have had to postpone important building and repair works, as we can no longer afford them. We are in the process of reviewing all of our SLAs and are now spending less money on most of these, but with reductions in levels of service as a result. Even with the above, we are still projecting a significant budget deficit within a couple of years. We are now in the process of restructuring our staff team in order to reduce costs - which will include significant redundancies in support staff numbers."

"There is a huge challenge to meet the increasing SEND demands, with less staff and specialist provision this is a perfect storm waiting to happen. Not only will it affect schools' ability to meet SEND needs effectively, but it will have a negative impact on the provision for non-SEND pupils, teacher morale and parental assurance."

"The financial pressure we are under as a small school is significant and hugely impacts the ability to run our school. With the increasing behavioural issues and SEN support some of our pupils require and the constant reduction in our funding is incredibly challenging to fulfil this ever increasing need. At the start of 2018 we will have to reduce staff numbers."

"In recent years, we have seen a significant increase in the level of need coming into the school and have to recruit additional support in class so that other pupil's learning will not be disrupted. Recruitment is also a significant issue. At the moment, we do not have the budgets to be able to attract staff and have to recruit NQTs, just to balance the books. Recruiting a teacher with any kind of experience is out of the question as we simply do not have the budget for it."

"Some children have needed two adults until they have moved into specialists settings (4 in one year)- this support will not be possible in the future and would therefore leave schools stretched in their ability to meet the most vulnerable pupils needs. The new code of practice has endeavoured to enhance inclusion but has been implemented at a time of funding cuts, the most vulnerable pupils are therefore, potentially, far more vulnerable due to these cuts."

"Last 2 years have set an in year deficit budget to maintain staff levels and provision. We have been able to do this due to carry forward but cannot maintain this beyond this year. The cost of maintaining the building to the required standard has increased due to age and costs and is contributing to the increasing in year deficit and the eroding of our carry forward."

**Survey compiled from responses of 54 headteachers (primary & secondary) across the London Borough of Croydon (Westminster constituencies of Croydon North, Croydon Central and Croydon South) between 29<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**