NORTHERN IRELAND PRIMARY PRINCIPALS' ACTION GROUP

Dear MR WUSAN 327/08/17/02

At their Conference in Cookstown on Thursday 24 April hundreds of primary school principals demanded action to ease the massive underfunding problems in their schools.

The NIPPAG passed, unanimously, the following 6 Resolutions which they will take to the Department of Education and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

- It is unacceptable that a child in P7 attracts £1258 per year less in core funding than a child in Year 8. We call on the Minister of Education to address this issue immediately.
- We call on the N Ireland Executive to step in with an immediate payment of £200 per pupil and to ensure that the Department of Education raises primary school funding by £800 per pupil per year. It is indefensible that the Executive presides over a situation where Primary schools in England get 79% of secondary funding, in Scotland 72% and in N Ireland only 61.8%.
- The young children of N Ireland will not attain higher standards in Literacy and Numeracy unless the Revised Curriculum is properly Funded. NIPPAG calls on all elected representatives to address this issue urgently.
- The Department of Education must stop being totally irresponsible in respect of the Health and Well Being of primary school teachers and principals and set up an effective welfare support structure to handle unprecedented stress levels. Our children need their teachers to be fit and healthy.
- NIPPAG demands that the N Ireland Executive sets up an immediate enquiry into the devastating effects of underfunding in our primary schools.
- 6 NIPPAG demands substantially increased funding in order to provide:
 - a) smaller class sizes
 - b) PPA time for teachers

- c) more and better learning resources
- d) more support staff
- e) more management support
- f) equality with secondary education and with other parts of the UK

The Northern Ireland Primary Principals' Action Group request an urgent meeting with you to discuss these resolutions.

Please contact me at school to arrange a suitable date.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN MUST NO LONGER BE SECOND CLASS CITIZENS.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. McCartney,

Principal, Brooklands Primary School

NIPPAG