



Our campaign to save maintained nursery schools

September 2019

Worth saving



- Nursery schools are some of the **highest performing** education institutions in our education system (all 392 are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted).
- 64% of maintained nursery schools (MNS) are in the 30% most **deprived areas** of England.
- It has been evidenced that the quality of MNS provision helps to close the gap between **disadvantaged children** and their peers. No other part of the early years sector has the same track record at helping disadvantaged children.
- Maintained nurseries have a **unique pool of expertise** in supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Nurseries have over twice as many children with SEND than the national average.

Under threat



- Maintained nursery schools have been **systematically underfunded**. As a result, one third of MNS in England have closed since 1980.
- Many of the surviving 392 MNS will **struggle to remain open beyond 2020**, unless the Government takes urgent action this autumn.
- Supplementary funding arrangements for MNS – which amount to on average a third of their total funding - has only been secured until 2020.
- Loss of the £60m supplementary funding would represent an average cut of 31% – for some MNS far more. This would lead to widespread closures.

The Government position



- The funding announcement on 30 August 2019 increased Early Years Funding, which includes MNS and is welcome, but it is not enough.
- NEU has calculated that Early Years **funding should increase to £400m** approximately by 2022/23 to maintain 2015/16 levels, the government has only confirmed £66M. A shortfall of approximately £334M.
- 31% of MNS funding comes from a special grant, which is roughly £60m a year. The grant runs out in August 2020.

Our position



- The **proven value** of MNS is such that instead of nursery schools being threatened with closure, a long term funding solution should be agreed to prevent further closures.
- The Government should be **investing** in existing provision as well as opening new MNS in areas that don't currently benefit from their high-quality and inclusive provision.
- The government requires all schools to have three year budgets in place, so MNS now need to be able to make reasonable assumptions about their budgets from 2020 onwards. We call on government to **make good on its recognition that MNS are schools** and make a commitment to fund MNS on the same basis as all other schools.
- Given their particular focus on the most **disadvantaged children** – the government should consider whether MNS should receive the pupil premium at the schools rate, including pupil premium plus for looked after children.

Our campaign



- Our campaign strategy is to put as much **pressure** as possible on the **government** this term to secure the funding maintained nursery schools need to survive.



Every nursery school
faces cuts or closure
next year

[SIGN NOW TO SAVE THEM]



Petition



- Our **petition** to the PM calling on him to save our maintained nursery schools already has 17,500 signature but our aim is to get it to 25,000 by the time we deliver it to Downing Street in November.
- If you have not already please **sign and share** with family, friends and colleagues.
- We're calling on all MNS headteachers to send our **campaign letter** home to all parents this term calling on them to do the same petition bit.ly/savenurseryschools.

Lobby your MP



- Write to your MP asking them to sign the MP pledge on MNS and lobby the Government for the publication of a long-term funding system that secures the future of maintained nursery schools.
- You can do so using the online tool here:
schoolcuts.org.uk/action/ask-your-mp-to-pledge-to-save-nursery-schools

Publicity



- Support the campaign to save maintained nursery schools on social media neu.org.uk/save-nursery-schools#social-graphic

Share on Twitter and Facebook



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Share this image

Ask your colleagues, friends and family to support maintained nurseries.

To share on Twitter: use our [pre-composed tweet](#).

To share on Facebook: [download the image](#) and share with a link to [this page](#).



Get organised



- If we are going to save maintained nurseries for the long term we need to get organised.
- Speak to members of staff not here today and explain the campaign.
- Recruit staff who are not in a union into the NEU.
- Elect an NEU rep to act as a point of contact who can disseminate campaign information.
- Co-ordinate activity with other nursery schools.

Next steps



- What do you think we need to do next?

