

July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kingswood is a 'maintained nursery school' and the current government has recognised the crucial role that we play as system leaders for the early years. They are saying all the right things, but not making any guarantees! Maintained nursery schools are struggling to remain viable because our current funding is only guaranteed until 2019-2020.

The 397 remaining maintained nurseries schools across the country are joining forces and taking action!

Here are the facts:

1. Maintained nursery schools need a guarantee now that they will have viable funding after 2020, otherwise many more will close over the next few years.
2. Maintained nursery schools are held to higher standards than private and voluntary sector nurseries – they have to pay qualified teachers, have a headteacher, have admissions policies which prioritise the children in greatest need, and undergo more stringent Ofsted inspections.
3. Maintained nursery schools transform lives, especially for some of our most disadvantaged children, because of the quality of education they offer. Evidence shows that no other part of the early years sector has the same track record at helping disadvantaged children to catch up with their more advantaged peers. They contribute to government's social mobility objectives by doing so.
4. The whole early years sector benefits from the expertise of maintained nursery schools acting as catalysts to raise standards in their locality through supporting schools and early years settings to work together to improve their quality. Kingswood is a member of 'Acorns Teaching School Alliance' and we have frequent visitors, speak at national and local conferences, go out and support other settings and run courses for other local practitioners.
5. Maintained nursery schools have a unique pool of expertise in supporting children with SEND in the early years and helping those children access their entitlement to early years education, often taking children whom other settings do not have the resources or expertise to support.

So, we need your help! Every maintained nursery school across the country is going to ask the parents and carers one simple question and then present your comments to the government. If we can gather lots of positive responses, then this will be very powerful in helping our fight for survival.

Please use the sheet to tell us 'How has Kingswood nursery school helped your child and family?'

Please join the campaign to save maintained nursery schools by giving us a few moments of your time!

Sincere thanks, Mrs. Bernice Jackson. Headteacher.

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'How has Kingswood nursery school helped your child and family?'

Child/ren who have attended Kingswood:

Parent/carer name:

Signature:

