

# Schools Lose Out.



## in Postcode Lottery



■ John Penrose MP is campaigning for fairer funding for our local schools

North Somerset's school pupils are some of the worst funded in the country. Another school year has just started and our North Somerset schools will receive just £3,757 per pupil.

**That's:**

- ◆ £134 less per pupil than nearby Bath and North East Somerset
- ◆ £609 less per pupil than nearby Bristol
- ◆ £2,532 less per pupil than the London Borough of Tower Hamlets



Local MP John Penrose is campaigning to achieve fairer funding for all children. Wherever they live, all children with the same needs should have the same access to:

- ◆ teacher and teacher assistant time and attention
- ◆ the national curriculum and a wider range of other activities
- ◆ up to date resources and equipment

- ◆ extra help for special needs to ensure inclusion and personalised learning
  - ◆ well-managed and serviced schools
- Ideally every pupil would get a base entitlement that is sufficient to meet their base needs, plus extra for factors like deprivation or special needs if they qualify.

**Are our children really worth £609 less than their friends in Bristol?**

The Government has increased education funding recently, but North Somerset's problems weren't solved because our funding started from a lower base and has gone up by less, than virtually everywhere else in the country. As a result the funding gap has got wider rather than narrower.

# Minister promises flood protection for Congresbury Yeo



■ John Penrose inspecting the sea defences of the Congresbury Yeo

**Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose has received personal assurances from the Environment Minister, Phil Woolas MP, that the Congresbury Yeo will not be left with obsolete or inadequate flood protection**

Mr Penrose has been chasing the minister and the Environment Agency over the last year because he is concerned about the state of the Yeo defences near Tutshill Sluice.

If the defences were to fail, hundreds of homes and local businesses would be at risk. Communities which could be affected include Kewstoke, Sand Bay, Wick St Lawrence, St Georges, parts of Worle as well as villages from the north bank of the river all the way up to Clevedon.

John said: "I'm delighted that the Minister has finally given this commitment. The original plan to update the defences was put on hold because the Government reallocated the funds. That left local residents and businesses worried that the Government were playing Russian roulette with their lives and livelihoods.

"They will be relieved to hear that the Government are now pushing forward with the scheme. I'll be keeping a close eye on them to make sure that they fulfil their promises and don't backtrack."



**Phil Woolas MP, Environment Minister**

Please take the time to sign the petition below supporting the campaign, or write to John Penrose MP at The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA and he will take it up in Parliament.

**We the undersigned call on the government to introduce a fairer system of funding for all children in school, including early years and 14-16 education.**

We believe that the current formula for distributing funding is unfair and penalises children in the poorest funded authority areas, like North Somerset, which is 135th out of 148 local education authorities.

We support the proposals for fairer education funding formula for 2008-2011.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to: John Penrose MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**

**Data Protection Act**

The information you supply us will be treated by John Penrose MP in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data protection Act 1998 and will not be passed on to any third parties. By giving us your email address you are agreeing to receive communications and information from John Penrose MP. If you do not wish him to do this, please mark a cross in this box.

**John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round**