

Good morning,

Recently your finance team should have received a communication from the Department for Education regarding the future of Maintained Nursery Schools.

That communication reiterated the government's commitment to the long-term funding and protection of these schools.

We are aware that the DfE are currently working on a specific long-term solution when it comes to the funding mechanisms for Local Authorities with Maintained Nursery Schools.

We are sure that we do not need to tell you about the vitally important role these nurseries play in our education system. You will be only too aware of the positive outcomes they achieve for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and the vital support they provide for pupils with SEND.

Despite the recent commitment from the government, we have been extremely concerned to hear that some Local Authorities have recently initiated reviews regarding the long-term future of some of these schools.

Whilst we fully understand and appreciate the enormous financial pressure LAs are operating under, we would strongly urge you not to rush into taking any decisions before we have a clear picture from government regarding how this future funding will work.

If the government are able to find the right solution, closure of nursery schools should be completely unnecessary, would result in the local authority forgoing income targeted to ensure the sustainability of this high quality provision, and do untold long-term damage to local early years provision. We would ask that you wait until you have the complete picture before proceeding with any such discussions.

We are sure you would agree that losing Maintained Nursery Schools from the Early Years landscape would be an enormous backwards step when it comes to supporting our most vulnerable children and families.

We will continue to work closely with the government to find a quick and sustainable solution and in the meantime we ask that you place any current or impending reviews on hold.

Yours faithfully



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General Secretary

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