

# Teaching posts cut back to cope with cuts crisis

## Two-thirds of all schools affected say researchers

### **RUBY KITCHEN**

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

■ Email: [ruby.kitchen@jpimedia.co.uk](mailto:ruby.kitchen@jpimedia.co.uk)

■ Twitter: [@yorkshirepost](https://twitter.com/yorkshirepost)

TEACHER NUMBERS have been cut to save school funding in over two-thirds of the nation's secondaries, new research suggests, prompting calls for urgent action to ensure a quality of education for the most vulnerable.

Social mobility charity The Sutton Trust, in a poll of teachers published today, has revealed stark findings over spending challenge amid concerns over the impact on the poorest pupils.

As revealed in *The Yorkshire*

*Post* last week, a principal at one West Yorkshire school has already stepped down to save his salary and ensure his institution can stay solvent for a further three years.

Ray Henshaw, taking early retirement from Minsthorpe Community College on Friday, said he had been left with no choice in light of the funding crisis.

Now, amid reports of teaching numbers being cut nationwide, fewer school trips and reduced classroom equipment, there are further warnings as a quarter of secondary schools admit to using funds set aside for the most dis-

advantaged pupils to plug budget gaps.

"Our new polling adds to the growing evidence that the squeeze on school budgets is having a detrimental effect," said Sir Peter Lampl, founder and executive chairman of the Sutton Trust and chairman of the Education Endowment Foundation.

"Of particular concern is that schools are having to use funding for poorer pupils to plug gaps in their finances. Many are having to get rid of teachers to close these funding gaps and endangering efforts to improve opportunities for poorer young people."

The poll of 1,678 teachers found that two-thirds of secondary schools had cut teacher numbers.

Two-fifths of all school leaders said they'd cut back on trips and outings, while more than half had slashed spending on IT equipment.

The Sutton Trust is calling for urgent Government action, calling for the promised spending review to take place as soon as possible to provide funding clarity for schools.

Paul Whiteman, the general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, said the most vulnerable in society are being affected, and added: "The Government cannot avoid this issue any longer. Our system is failing the most vulnerable pupils, at the most critical time in their lives."

It comes after analysis by *The Yorkshire Post* revealed one in seven maintained schools in the region are struggling financially, with deficits doubling in two years to more than £30m.

## 'Record levels of spending'

**THE GOVERNMENT** has defended the state of the nation's education system and maintained that it is providing record levels of funding for schools across the nation

The Department for Education (DfE) claimed there are more teachers in schools than in 2010 and the number of teaching assistants has increased by a fifth between 2011 and 2017.

However, a DfE spokesperson added: "We recognise the budgeting challenges schools face and have introduced a wide range of practical support to help schools and headteachers, to help schools make the most of every pound on non-staff costs."