

James Gillespie's  
High School  
Parent Council



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Dear Councillor

**Draft budget proposals of the City of Edinburgh Council for 2023/24 – cuts to Education services**

The Parent Council of James Gillespie's High School would like to raise its concerns about the proposed cuts to education services in the budgets for 2023/24 being considered by the Council on 23 February.

It is especially worrying that the cuts envisaged will target services like speech and language therapy and inclusion and support, which will affect most badly some of the children who most need support. In addition, general cuts to devolved school budgets will have a detrimental effect across all schools, at a time when school finances are already stretched, and schools are having to deal with difficult circumstances for many coming out of covid. It seems inevitable that the withdrawal of direct budget allocations along with the removal of services such as transition teachers and Education Welfare Officers will simply throw necessary tasks back onto staff and local budgets which are already under pressure.

Council papers cite the rollout of the Empowered Learning Programme as support for delivering education more effectively and thus mitigating the effect of cuts on devolved budgets, without also noting the extra costs for schools which have accompanied changes in technology use, including maintenance and renewal of equipment.

We note with further concern the lack of plans for consultation or impact assessments to be carried out until decisions in principle are taken, which is the wrong way to approach such decisions.

We understand that the Council is required to produce a balanced budget, but cutting education budgets at this time is a false economy, and those affected will be children who have already been badly impacted in their education by covid-related disruption.

We hope that local councillors will be able to take these concerns forward in the upcoming consideration of the budget.

James Gillespie's High School Parent Council

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