

Holy Trinity Lamorbey CE Primary School

Burnt Oak Lane Sidcup Kent DA15 9DB

W: www.htl.bexley.sch.uk T: 020 8300 3613

Head Teacher: Mr. A Twyman BA Ed (Hons) PG Cert



24th November 2017

Sidcup Business Improvement District (BID)

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with the agreement of the Amadeus Primary Academies Trust board to inform you of the fact that the school is being compelled to spend thousands of pounds against our will to promote the profitability of local businesses.

The Sidcup Business Improvement District was set up this year with these expressed aims:

- To ensure Sidcup businesses and attractions and strengths are well known, understood and promoted, and that they have a clear voice and key role in the development of Sidcup.
- To Support Sidcup businesses and attract new workers and business to Sidcup.

This is funded by levying rate payers in the BID area. 5 State schools have been included in the BID area and all are on the periphery of it. Indeed, Holy Trinity and Burnt Oak Junior School are actually shown as being outside the BID area on the 'indicative' map and yet we have been levied. The rates schools pay are high due to our large buildings and land area and this is funded for us by the Department for Education directly. The DfE are not able to provide a rebate for the BID levy and so we are having to pay it from funds that would otherwise be allocated to the education of your child.

Our principal concern lies in the fact that the total income of the BID is £165000 per year for 5 years. The 5 state schools contribute £16545 per year of this, more than 10% of the income. This is despite the fact that, by the BID manager's own admission, they are unable in any way to help us achieve our aims of educating your child. The schools could have easily have been exempt from the levy as is the case in many similar BIDs including nearby Bexleyheath. All 5 schools have objected to the levy and sought an exemption. HTL is a school that fulfils its legal obligations and as such we have paid although under considerable protest. We are now working hard to have this injustice overturned through the complaints procedure. We feel that the BID management has included us in a cynical attempt to raise the income of their BID and we note that 3 local doctor's surgeries, who fall squarely within the BID area and whom have identical rate paying arrangements with the Department of Health as we do with the Department for Education, have not been levied. No one from the BID has commented on this despite our enquiries.

I feel compelled to inform parents of what I consider to be an outrageous misappropriation of tax payer's money, intended for the education of children, for the purposes of increasing the profitability of local businesses. While I have no objection to the BID and its aims in principal, I feel strongly that it should not be at the expense of your child's education. I suspect that the many businesses in this area who supported the school so generously after the break in to the library bus would probably agree if they knew. We have been pursuing this matter for some time and have found the BID management to be utterly uncompromising and entirely unsympathetic to our position. I feel that I have no choice but to inform you therefore of the position the school is in and the impact it will be having on your child's education over a 5-year period, almost a whole school generation. Any support the community can offer us in this endeavour, would be most gratefully received.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. A Twyman
Head Teacher

