



**A message to parents,  
carers and grandparents  
from the National  
Education Union (NEU).**

**#PAYUP**

**Our members –  
teachers, support  
staff and leaders –  
have voted to take  
strike action.**



**You might not know why we have taken this decision.**

**But what you do know is that we try to do our best for your children.**

**To give them a good education and make school a warm and welcoming community, where staff know and understand them and you.**

**Where we give them continuity and stability, with enough specialist teachers, who know their subjects. And the proper resources to help them learn and grow.**

**But we are struggling to do that right now.**

In July, the Government offered most teachers a pay rise of just 5 per cent – with inflation soaring, that adds up to a 7 per cent pay cut.

The 5 per cent offered isn't fully funded – that means Government expects your school to pay for it out of its already dwindling budget.

Because our pay is not keeping up with the cost of living, teachers and support staff are leaving for jobs with comparable salaries but without the stress and workload generated by targets and paperwork that exist in schools right now.

One in three teachers leave education within five years. And last September, almost a third fewer trainees began teacher training than are needed.

Schools have too many vacancies. Heads tell us of vital subjects – maths, science, computing, languages – with unfilled posts and existing staff delivering lessons outside their subject every single day.

Managing with fewer staff also means we can't give enough personal support if your children need extra help.

And it means they have reduced access to sports, drama, music and other activities that make the week for a lot of pupils.

## **We don't want to be on strike.**

We'd rather be in the classroom, getting on with what we do best – teaching and supporting your children.

But we can't stand by and see our colleagues experience hardship with yet another real-terms pay cut.

And we can't stand back and watch the exodus from teaching and the resulting decline in the quality of education for your children.

Our action for a fully funded, above-inflation pay rise isn't just about making sure that teachers and support staff make ends meet. It's about the future of education.

**This Government is failing children and young people and those who teach and support them. And, like our NHS staff, we are being forced into taking action for our members, our pupils and their future.**

**Please show your support by writing to your MP and take the time to tell your child's teacher and support staff that you are with them.**

**Thank you.**



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