

18 January 2017

Dear Member

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT INDUSTRIAL ACTION

With your support, the NASUWT is campaigning to improve the working conditions of teachers across Northern Ireland, including the scandalous decision to deny teachers a pay award last year. Despite additional funding provided to the Northern Ireland Assembly by the Westminster Government, the decision of the Education Minister to divert £7 million from teachers' salaries and to use this money for other purposes was wholly unacceptable and an insult to teachers.

The NASUWT is continuing to pursue this issue and has written to the Education Minister to express the deep anger of teachers about his decision, and also to demand that teachers benefit from a pay award for 2015/16. Despite the prospect of fresh elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the NASUWT dispute on pay, jobs, workload and pensions continues.

On 30 November, NASUWT members in Belfast and Newtownabbey took part in the first wave of a rolling programme of strike action to protest against the decision to deny a pay award for teachers and to demand negotiations on all aspects of the NASUWT dispute. Members in Derry City and Strabane, Mid Ulster, and Fermanagh and Omagh will, on 31 January, be taking part in a second wave of strike action. I am sure that members throughout Northern Ireland will continue to show their solidarity for colleagues taking part in strike action.

To continue to defend the interests of teachers, NASUWT members are instructed that, **with effect on 1 February 2017**, they should engage in escalated action short of strike action which will include the following additional measures:

- refusing to implement any new initiatives, policies or working practices which have not been workload impact assessed and agreed through consultation with the NASUWT;
- not participating in the CCEA end of key stage assessment scheme, and refusing to submit tasks to CCEA for approval, compile portfolios of work for CCEA standardisation, engage in moderation/standardisation exercises, or record levels of progression;
- not co-operating with book scoops or submitting pupils' books for scrutiny by other staff;
- not submitting teacher planners or lesson plans to members of the senior management team or anyone acting on behalf of the senior management team;
- not co-operating with any ETI inspections;
- not attending any meetings or events before or after pupil session times or during the lunchbreak, or undertaking any other activity in lieu of attendance at meetings.

A copy of the fully revised and updated Action Short of Strike Action Instructions and associated guidance is included with this letter and is available to download from the NASUWT website.

This escalation of industrial action is part of the incremental programme of industrial action across Northern Ireland. The revised action short of strike action is designed to continue to protect teachers whilst demonstrating the increasing anger of members against the failure of the Education Minister to address teachers' concerns. Formal notification of the escalated action short of strike action will be issued to the employers shortly.

I would like to thank all of you who have responded positively in recent months to the escalation of the NASUWT industrial action, and to assure you of the NASUWT's determination to challenge the unacceptable way in which teachers continue to be treated by their employers and by the Department of Education.

Thank you for your continuing support for the NASUWT.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Keates".

Chris Keates (Ms)
General Secretary