

21st July 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE *Protecting members*

In this update:

- **Plans for the September opening of schools and other educational settings**
- **NASUWT support for members in vulnerable groups**
- **Supply teachers**
- **Keeping in touch with the NASUWT throughout the summer break**

Plans for the opening of schools and other educational settings in September

The Summer term 2020 has been an extremely challenging one for members.

During the term, the NASUWT was proud to support members in the excellent job they did, despite their own concerns and anxieties about COVID-19, in supporting vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers on site, as well as providing remote learning opportunities for all other pupils.

Schools and other educational settings have now closed for the Summer term and it is important that, notwithstanding the continuing COVID-19 restrictions, members take every opportunity they can to take a well-earned break during the next few weeks.

However, the NASUWT recognises that many members will understandably be feeling anxious about what September might bring and, therefore, would like to provide them with reassurance of the actions the Union will be taking during the Summer to provide support and seek to secure a safe return to the workplace.

The Union will also continue to engage with Ministers, Department for Education (DfE) officials and employers, during the Summer, to seek to ensure the safe opening of schools from the Autumn. Further information will be published on the NASUWT website.

The DfE's initial Guidance on opening in September was issued relatively late in the summer term. Some employers, therefore, may not have completed or published their plans for opening before schools closed at the end of term.

If you find that the beginning of term is drawing near and you are not aware of the plans for the opening of your workplace, or you receive plans during the Summer break about which you have concerns, please contact the NASUWT for further advice and support.

Support for NASUWT members in vulnerable groups

Since the beginning of the lockdown in March, the NASUWT has been providing advice and support to members who have been identified as COVID-19 vulnerable, including members with underlying health conditions, those with disabilities, those who are pregnant and those from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background.

The NASUWT recognises that members in these vulnerable groups will be feeling particularly anxious about the arrangements for September. The NASUWT is seeking further advice from the Government and will publish further updates to our advice on the NASUWT website shortly.

Supply teachers

Supply teachers have faced an extremely difficult time during the COVID-19 lockdown arrangements. Whilst some members have been furloughed by their agencies, others have been without any income.

The September opening of schools to all pupils may provide new opportunities for supply teachers. The NASUWT will be publishing further advice for supply teacher members to support them at this challenging time, as changes are introduced to the Government's furlough arrangements, and as agencies and employers seek to implement health and safety provisions for supply teachers, including those teachers working in more than one workplace.

Keeping in touch with the NASUWT throughout the Summer break

Throughout the Summer break, the NASUWT will be providing updates and information regarding the plans for, and developments concerning, the September opening of schools and other educational settings.

Members are requested to check the NASUWT website and their emails regularly during the next few weeks to ensure that they do not miss any important information from the Union.

The NASUWT hopes that all members have a well-earned break during the Summer term and that you and your families remain safe and well.



E-mail: advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk