

On 25 September, the NASUWT met representatives of the Sixth Form Colleges Association, the colleges' national body, to discuss sixth-form college teachers' pay from September 2017.

In line with the NASUWT's own pay submission (available at www.nasuwt.org.uk) the Union made the case for a significant pay increase and emphasised that the increases for school teachers following the recommendations of the



School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) provided an absolute minimum floor for discussions on sixth-form college teachers' pay. Indeed, in its 27th Report, the STRB repeated the recommendation made in its 26th Report that a higher than 1% uplift is necessary to reduce the pay gap between teaching and other graduate professions. However, the STRB also made it clear that it is not expecting schools to wait to do this:

'We have weighed the competing arguments very carefully. Overall, we believe that the extent of the pressures on teacher recruitment and retention is too significant to defer taking any action for another year.'

The NASUWT made it clear that, given the challenges which sixth-form colleges face to recruit and retain teachers, the Sixth Form Colleges Association cannot afford not to recommend a substantial above-inflation pay increase for teachers.

Therefore, the NASUWT is extremely disappointed that the Employers' Side made a pay offer of 1% on all scale points and allowances from 1 September 2017. The NASUWT rejected this offer as wholly inadequate, particularly following last year's pay award of 0.66% which the NASUWT was the only union to reject. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Employers' Side would consider the points made by the NASUWT in relation to the case for a higher increase, and that the Sixth Form Colleges Association would seek to secure information from sixth-form colleges about pay progression and workforce distribution in time for resumption of negotiations. A recent pay survey carried out by the NASUWT indicated that over a third of sixth-form teachers had not received pay progression.

In the meantime, discussions are continuing to develop further guidance on workload and working time.

THE NASUWT FIGHTING FOR SIXTH-FORM COLLEGE TEACHERS



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October 2017

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