

Classroom Teacher

NUT Conference Edition April 2010

Make sure you are on the **CLASSROOM TEACHER** mailing list



Now out every month!

'Classroom Teacher' is now a regular monthly newsletter, sent out by email to teachers across England and Wales.

We hope it gives teachers a chance to air their views - and discuss what action we can take to change things for the better for teachers - and for education.

Articles this year have reported on workload, bullying, Ofsted, action against Academies, fighting education cuts, what teachers think about limiting the SATs ballot to the leadership group - and more.

If you want to get a regular copy, then make sure you have given us your e-mail address. Why not have your say and send in an article too!

Exhausted, Observed, Bullied, Overworked...

DON'T PUT OFF A BALLOT ANY LONGER !

CALL NATIONAL ACTION ON WORKLOAD!

(Martin Powell-Davies, elected to the NUT Executive)

Since last year's NUT Conference, workload has only got worse, further grinding down teachers and damaging education.

Yet both 2008 and 2009 Annual Conferences voted for a national ballot on workload action. Surely in 2010, it's time it was carried out!

Hopefully, this year there will be general agreement around the Waltham Forest amendment which calls on the Executive "to publicise and build our workload campaign

from the start of the summer term, in preparation for a ballot for national action".

The amendment makes clear that a successful ballot could sanction a programme of both strike and non-strike action, including clear guidelines that would allow NUT members to refuse to carry out excessive demands.

Unions can't just act as giant 'casework' organisations. To really defend members, we have to bring teachers together to tackle workload through national action.

If the ballot is properly planned and built for, it could at last give teachers the confidence to say 'NO' to excessive workload. 'Classroom Teacher' will help to build that campaign - as I will on the Executive.



NUT members on strike against pay cuts at Northbrook in Lewisham

MORE NEWS ON OUR BLOG

News and views that can't fit into the newsletter is posted on our blog. For example, look out for reports on the **strike action at Northbrook School**. Send your messages of support to the NUT Rep on derricktfish@usa.net

'Classroom Teacher' NUT Conference Fringe Meeting

Jurys Inn, Liverpool

12.45pm Sat 3 April

What should be included in a national workload ballot ? - and how we can win it !

www.classroomteacher.org.uk

Action and Change for Teachers

Building schools for OUR future

(by a local NUT Health & Safety Adviser)

Tax payers get to pay for the BSF programme. Private companies get profits. We get schools we don't even own and, far worse, are not fit for purpose. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment rated 87.5% of BSF designs as "mediocre" or "not yet good enough".

It is scandalous that many new schools are handed over with serious Health and Safety flaws. We have found: ICT rooms festooned with extension leads because there are too few electric sockets; bits falling off one school in the first high wind; doors that open into each other; electric sockets positioned over sinks; science labs with inadequate storage for dangerous substances; temperatures of 9°C in winter and 32°C in summer; internal balconies that one child has already fallen over; slippery outdoor play surfaces. The list goes on...

Then there are the ongoing stressors of working in these buildings. Management companies who take months to make a repair; inadequate staff rooms and toilet provision; having to go outside in all weathers to move between blocks.

All these examples come from one authority. Extrapolate them nationwide, multiply them by the schools not yet built, and what do we have? Generations of pupils condemned to learn in, and teachers to teach in, badly designed shoddily finished inadequate schools.

The schools that PPP's are fobbing us off with are as misguided and ill-conceived as 1960's tower blocks. We must act soon, or live with the consequences of our inaction.

Thanks to Classroom Teacher for providing a platform from which to raise my concerns. I hope that, by expressing them here, I will do a little to help spark a proper nationwide debate on building schools we can be proud of - and maybe even a motion for Conference 2011!

WANTED

Teacher for Early Years setting to work with 2 part-time classes of 25 Nursery age children.

Must be manic multi-tasker, able to attend to the emotional, physical and educational needs of all children at once whilst simultaneously doing any or all of the following:

- Conduct activities with, listen to and respond to all children.
- Observe, record the progress of, and regularly photograph each child, (ensuring broad and balanced coverage of each child in all six areas of the curriculum).
- Settle in newcomers, encourage independence, comfort, nurture.
- Follow and document progress of each child in free-flow setting whether children choose to be inside or outside.

Must be fully conversant with over 500 Statements of Development and know which of these each of the fifty children initially achieve by the first half-term at the very latest, thereby working with over 25,000 sections of data.

Must keep this information constantly updated by keeping 50 detailed and up-to-date sets of records of children's progress with dated and annotated observations, photos and samples of 'work', without enough time to do it.

Must provide accurate figures measuring each child's progress, even though it is fully recognised that the progress of Early Years children cannot be easily quantified.

Must have strong stomach to deal with range of bodily waste.

Interest in children a disadvantage since you will have little time to interact with them in any meaningful way.

Would suit six armed all-seeing, all-knowing omnipresent **superhuman** able to wield a pad of post-it notes, a pen, a camera, tissues, tie apron strings and laces, mop tears and comfort young children missing mummy whilst recording the move of each child at any given moment.

MERE MORTALS NEED NOT APPLY



This article on 'Early Years' appears alongside others on SATs, Class Sizes, Observations, Cover, Leadership and Management Time - and more - in the 'Classroom Teacher' pamphlet:

"TEACHER WORKLOAD - WHY WE NEED NATIONAL ACTION"

Buy your copy for £1

Classroom Teacher

... is an initiative ...
by, and for, classroom teachers
... voicing the concerns and
experiences of classroom teachers
... so we can build action to win
change for classroom teachers

If you want :

... help organising a strong Union group in your school
... to share your views about the pressures teachers face
... to take action to defend teachers and education ...

Get in touch :

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