

A message to all parents and carers



Why are teachers going on strike?

Dear parent/carer,

Members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) are taking strike action on Thursday April 24th. This leaflet explains the reason for this.

Pay cuts for teachers

Teachers are angry because for the last three years their pay has gone up by less than inflation, so the value of their pay has gone down. In January the government announced that this would happen for another three years, until 2011. This means six years of pay cuts. **At the moment inflation is 4.2% and teachers have been told their pay is going up by 2.45%.** The NUT thinks teachers deserve better.

How this affects education

The government says it wants the best people to become teachers, but unless they pay them properly this will not happen, people will take better paid jobs. ***Did you know that 50% of new teachers leave after only three years.*** This means schools are always having to look for new teachers, this is not good for education.

Bad for your children

We know that, when teachers pay goes down, schools find it more difficult to get the staff they need to provide a good quality education for your child. It may mean class sizes go up, or specialist teachers can't be found.

Not just teachers

It isn't just teachers who are having their pay held down by the government. The police, nurses, council workers, coastguards and other workers providing vital public services have all had their pay set below the rate of inflation; we think they deserve better too.

But why take strike action?

We know that our strike action will disrupt your child's education for the day, and we apologise for that. But we have tried everything and the government won't listen. Strike action is the last resort but we think we have no other option. The alternative is a return to teacher shortages and classes without teachers.

Please support us

We would welcome your support for our campaign. If you support us tell your child's teacher; tell your MP; tell your friends and tell the local paper.