

EARLY YEARS

The UTU is urging the Department of Education to ensure that funding is specifically allocated for the needs of Foundation Stage children and is not diverted elsewhere. It should be used for its core purpose to provide additional adult assistance within the foundation stage.

The UTU is calling on the Education Minister to adequately fund teacher-led Nursery settings and Foundation Stage classes to enable staff to resource the observation and assessment of young children. This is vital to properly facilitate early intervention and cater for their learning needs.

DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS

A cardiac arrest can occur in a person of any age. Schools are community hubs where teachers, parents and pupils are meeting throughout the day and evening; a cardiac arrest could occur at any time. The UTU is calling on the Department of Education and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to place a defibrillator in every school in Northern Ireland and to fund training for the use of.

TEACHER HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The UTU is calling on the Education Authority to ensure that all employees in schools and colleges are able to enjoy a safe working environment and that, as in many other professions, a policy of zero tolerance is implemented for those who perpetrate abusive language or behaviour towards them.

The UTU believes that on-going budget cuts are adversely affecting teachers' health and wellbeing. The UTU is demanding that the health and wellbeing of teachers is addressed as a matter of urgency in order to protect the quality of educational provision in Northern Ireland.

MENTAL HEALTH

The UTU is calling on the Department of Education and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to educate School Leaders and Boards of Governors with regard to the issues around Mental Health and to ensure that policies are updated to reflect this "hidden" disability.

DISABILITY

The UTU demands that the new Education Authority ensures that Governors are fully trained in their duties with regard to teachers with disabilities.

TEACHING PRINCIPALS

The UTU has grave concerns that the pressure put on school budgets will negatively impact on the health and wellbeing of teaching principals, as the funding allocated for their release from classroom teaching will be eroded to protect other teachers from redundancies and non-teaching jobs.

The UTU is demanding that funding in school budgets for the release of teaching principals is ring fenced.

CPD AND TRAINING

The UTU is calling on the Department of Education and the Education Authority to urgently examine the support needs for schools around the area of pupils' challenging behaviour. The UTU is calling on DE and the EA to provide adequate support, training and CPD for all staff.

SEN

The UTU welcomes the three additional Learning Support Classrooms which have been provided in the North Eastern region for children with ASD. The UTU, however, has grave and growing concerns about the ever-dwindling lack of support for children with other additional needs and calls on the Education Authority to ensure that this situation is addressed as a matter of urgency to ensure the health and wellbeing of children and teachers alike.

The UTU is calling on the Department of Education to ensure that the Educational Psychology Service provided by the Education Authority is adequate to meet the needs of the growing number of children in our schools who require assessment.

ETI

The UTU calls on those in the ETI who inspect teaching and learning to have recent and relevant teaching experience in the area they are observing and reporting on.

The UTU welcomes the recent changes experienced in schools with regard to school inspections. The UTU is urging DE and the ETI to ensure that such changes continue to take place with a view to achieving a positive and supportive process from which schools and children can benefit.

The UTU recognises the sterling work completed by the Education Committee that culminated in the Report on the Inquiry into the Education and Training Inspectorate and School Improvement Process in June 2014. The UTU is calling upon the Minister of Education to begin the process of implementing recommendations as highlighted in this report.

TTIP

The UTU has grave concerns about the implications for ALL public services, but education in particular, at the seemingly inevitable surge towards the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership becoming a signed deal between the EU and USA. The UTU is urging DE to do its utmost to thwart any such imposition, and further, is calling on the Minister for Education to take responsibility within the NI Assembly Executive to inform all levels of civil society of the huge dangers that this agreement poses across all aspects of our lives.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of social media is increasing in schools across Northern Ireland. However, there is at present no uniformly agreed social media policy. This leaves pupils, teachers, principals and parents vulnerable to the misuse of social media. The UTU is calling on the Department of Education to work with the Education Authority in ensuring that this is urgently looked at and that a uniform social media policy is put in place as soon as possible.

SCHOOL BUDGETS

The UTU deplores the manner in which schools have been seriously undermined in regard to budget issues in recent years. The UTU is demanding that DE recognises the importance of the stability of school budget in planning and delivering the legislative requirements placed on schools — by DE — and commits to ensuring that these pressures of uncertainty are not placed on schools in the future.

ASSESSMENT

The UTU remains concerned about the mobility of GCSE and A Level CCEA qualifications. Any changes must not disadvantage our young people and UTU is calling on CCEA and the Minister to ensure that our students are protected in relation to this.

ACADEMIC SELECTION

The UTU reaffirms its opposition to any academic selection at eleven and calls on the Education Minister to prevent schools from using academic criteria to select pupils.

EMPLOYMENT OF NQTs and RQTs

The UTU is calling on the Minister for Education and those across the political parties to stop, look, listen and act in relation to the dramatic impact the cuts will have on those seeking to make their future in teaching.

PAY

Over the past six years teachers' pay has been frozen with only one pay rise of 1%. This is below the current rate of inflation. Indeed increased pension contributions realistically mean that we have had a pay cut. Teachers must not be allowed to become the 'working poor' given the valuable contribution and role they have in our society. These pay cuts are freezing the future of education and prosperity of Northern Ireland. The UTU is calling on the Department of Education and the Department of Finance to adequately award teachers with pay which is linked to inflation. The UTU also insists that pay increments continue for teachers and that these remain protected.



ULSTER TEACHERS' UNION

94 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5HP

Tel: 028 9066 2216

E-mail: office@utu.edu Web: www.utu.edu