



Dear Colleague

### **INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

At the October meeting of the Central Executive Committee it was unanimously decided that **the Industrial Action would continue unaltered**. The Committee asked me to pass on our thanks for your continued participation in this action. It was noted that some of the Inspectorate are asserting that the action has not been effective. This is not accurate and certainly you should not be bullied into participating, especially since the working parties on workload are meeting very regularly and are due to report back at the end of November. Schools are reporting back to us that they are able to get on with their core purpose of teaching pupils and are pleased that this industrial action is taking place!

We are continuing to send out Officials to schools where Inspections have been notified and members are reporting that this is working extremely well. If you are notified of an ETI visit please contact Headquarters and arrange for an Official to be in attendance at the school.

Please note that UTU has planned its action to impact on the policy makers and not affect the pupils. We have made an effort to keep the parents on our side and this has for the most part worked. We intend to write out to Boards of Governors to thank them for their support for the teaching staff and to tell them how much their staff appreciates it.

### **SIZES OF PRACTICAL CLASSES**

We are delighted to report that John Collings, Education Authority, has confirmed that schools will be indemnified for taking classes larger than recommended providing they have followed the procedures outlined in his letter of 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. The only issue of concern still remaining is that of the adequacy of the risk assessments. There will be a meeting of all the unions to consider this matter next week and further advice will then be issued.

## **CONFERENCE 2018**

The dates of Conference next year will be 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March.2018. Branch meetings will be held this term to confirm delegates for the Conference so if you are interested in attending as a delegate then please make sure you attend your Branch meeting and get your name proposed and seconded. We are very pleased that our delegate numbers are increasing year on year but the deadlines for the return of names is strict. If you find that you have not been able to be returned as a delegate there may be an opportunity to attend as an observer – contact Headquarters for further details.

## **SIGNAGE AGAINST ABUSE**

We are becoming increasingly concerned about abusive behaviour and comments suffered by teachers and other education workers in the course of their employment. Most public services e.g. hospital receptions, doctor's surgeries have signage in place which highlights that this type of behaviour is prohibited . We would advise that you raise the matter through your principal to ensure that such behaviour is banned from schools as well.

## **TIME BUDGETS**

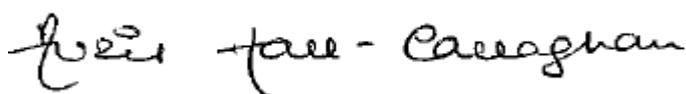
As the discussions on workload are on-going we felt it was appropriate for all teachers to request that they be issued with a current time budget. Principals are expected to provide time budgets for all teachers (with the exception of vice-principals and principals) as a statutory requirement of the Teachers' Terms and Conditions of Employment (NI) Regulations, 1987. (Often referred to as "The Jordanstown Agreement".)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TIME BUDGET SHOULD INCLUDE ALL TIME FOR WHICH A TEACHER IS CONTRACTED, INCLUDING TIME ALLOCATED TO CONTRACTUAL DUTIES ATTACHED TO POSTS OF RESPONSIBILITY.**

## **SCHOOL VISITS**

Please feel free to ask for a visit from a UTU Official if you think it would be helpful for them to speak with members of staff. We have noted that there are high levels of stress apparent in some schools and if we can be of assistance in alleviating it please do not hesitate in contacting Headquarters on 9066 2216.

Yours sincerely



**General Secretary**