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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WREKIN TEACHERS' DIVISION 2008**

This has been a year of ups and downs for the NUT. We had a very successful conference in Manchester with everyone uniting behind a pay and workload campaign. Sadly this was followed by the sudden death of Steve Sinnott which was a dreadful blow to us all. He did so much to unite the union and spearhead so much fantastic work for teachers and children in this country and in many parts of the world. He will be very much missed. Following this and in many ways as a tribute to Steve's work we had the fantastic response in April to the call for Action on Pay. Thank you again for all your efforts. The issue of the continuing erosion of teachers pay was highlighted. The campaign involved many young members who have been hardest hit by the low pay awards. The second ballot did produce a majority in favour of Action, but the fact that many members expressed concern about taking action in the current financial climate meant that the decision was made not to go ahead. This year has also seen the welcome end of KS3 SATs. The NUT has campaigned long and hard on this issue. With many groups coming on board on this issue now the momentum is there to reinvigorate the campaign against SATs.

### **Tackling Stress Campaign**

Following our work in 2007 on stress we successfully pursued the campaign locally and took our findings to the Local Authority. We now have a new policy for schools incorporating the Management Standards and it has been agreed that the shortcomings highlighted in our survey need to be addressed. I particularly want to thank Pam Rudge and Hazel Duggan who coordinated the work on this.

### **Workload Campaign**

This continues to be a major cause of concern for Teachers and gives rise to a great deal of casework Nationally and Locally particularly in schools that are faced with problems such as ISP and National Challenge. Unreasonable levels of workload are **unacceptable** whatever initiative or situation your school is facing and the NUT will act when called upon to do so. Together with our colleagues in other Unions we have fought to re establish the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group which will give us another forum to fight for better conditions and to monitor Workload and other issues. Remember to check your workload against the NUT guidelines.

### **Academies and Trust Schools**

Unfortunately we now have two Academies in Telford. We continue to oppose Academies and fight to protect our members Conditions of Service. All the main Teaching Unions belong to the Anti Academies Alliance and to find out more log on to the website [www.antiacademies.org.uk](http://www.antiacademies.org.uk). We also now have the worrying situation of many schools applying for trust status. The NUT is opposed to the formation of Trust schools. We believe that schools are best able to meet the needs of their communities when they remain Community schools and Local Authorities are there to support them. We continue to oppose the setting up of these schools and fight to maintain Conditions of Service in these schools and Trade Union rights.

### **Other Campaigns**

We are involved in many other campaigns including , equal opportunities issues, Anti-Racism, International issues, excessive use and misuse of lesson observations, SEN issues, Upper Pay Scales, Pupil Behaviour, Conditions of Service, Performance Management, Health and Safety, Bullying and Harassment, Pupil and Parent Allegations and many more. We are affiliated to the local Trades Council which actively campaigns in many of the areas mentioned above and many more.

### **Division Survey**

The Regional NUT carried out a Divisional survey in the Autumn term looking at all aspects of our work. The results were very encouraging in that although we are a small Division we are providing a wide range of services for our members. Our membership has grown in fact our percentage increase is one of the highest in the region. We are looking at the results of this and seeing how we can develop further. We are aiming to look firstly at training and support for School Representatives.

### **Redundancies**

Unfortunately we saw redundancies in the Wrekin area last year and are set to see more this year. We respond to every potential redundancy and will continue to do so. We make sure every alternative has been explored and support members who are threatened.

### **Casework**

We have unfortunately seen another huge increase in casework. This is again true for all the main teaching Unions. We have seen a worrying increase in issues around pupil allegations, bullying and harassment, excessive monitoring and many workload related issues that have sometimes led to teachers becoming ill with work related stress. We respond to individual casework issues and also tackle some casework collectively as a school issue and continue to find that when we can deal with these issues collectively we tend to have more lasting success.

We continue to meet with the Local Authority and consult on policies, Conditions of Service, Health and Safety, amalgamations and restructuring, workforce reforms, CPD and all other areas concerning teachers.

We hold regular meetings on various topics covering local and national issues. Please get in touch about any issue that you need information on or would like discuss at a meeting. Suggestions for local training would also be welcome. We also continue to develop local campaigns and work with other groups locally and nationally.

We have sent delegates to various conferences and courses throughout the year. These include National Conference, Young Teachers events, Representatives training, Health and Safety, Casework Training, Secretary Training, and Regional Executive and Council. If you are interested in attending any Union courses please let us know. Details of all courses Union related and CPD courses are available in school and on the National web site.

Again I would like to thank all the officers and committee members for their attendance at meetings and all their hard work over the year. I would like to thank the committee for all the extra work they have put in to recruitment this year. I would particularly like to thank our President Kari Anson who has worked hard on raising the profile of the NUT with young teachers. It is very much appreciated that without local officers the NUT could not function as it does

I would also like to thank all our Regional Staff for their support and hard work.

I would also like to thank all our School Representatives for their work it is much appreciated. If there is no Representative in your school and you don't feel able to become the Representative perhaps you might consider being a contact member to open correspondence and refer issues to me.

ALL members are welcome to attend any local meetings. All dates of meetings can be found in schools and on the website.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Aly Langford**

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