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THE WREKIN DIVISION OF THE NUT

February 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WREKIN TEACHERS' DIVISION FOR 2010

This has been an exceptionally busy time for us locally and nationally. We have been opposing the proposed job cuts, the attacks on our conditions of service and the proposed changes to our pensions. We have also been fighting the increase in the moves towards the privatisation of our education system with the Academies and free schools programmes. We have also been working with our Public Sector colleagues in opposition to the Cuts in General.

CUTS

It was already clear in 2010 that the public sector funding cuts were going to be harsh and we were involved in Local campaigns against these cuts working with the other Public Sector Unions and the Local Trades Council. We are now seeing the full impact of the Cuts and we are now building to maximise NUT members' participation in the TUC's national demonstration on the 26th March.

To book a free place on a bus phone or email me.

Pensions

Along with all the UK teacher organisations we have been active in opposing any threatened unnecessary pension cuts and increased contributions. This is a vital campaign and set to continue this year. Please join the campaign. You can find out all about it on the NUT website and what you can do to help. Please join the national rally already mentioned above.

Academies and Free Schools

Unfortunately although we fought hard to oppose them we have two more Academies in our Division. **Please meet to pass the motion opposing Academies in your school. Let us know asap if your Head and Governors are considering Academy Status.** We continue to oppose Academies and all schools that are not community schools 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. Academies are funded by our money but are not held accountable. 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.

Workload and working time

Workload continues to be a cause of concern and the new NUT guidelines have been issued to all schools. We have been pressuring Head teachers where concerns have arisen and will continue to be active in this area. Please contact us if you believe you are facing unreasonable workload in your school. We have been involved with the Local Authority and other groups looking at Staff Wellbeing and the group is currently working on a guidance pack going out to schools.

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.

Redundancies

We unfortunately had a number of redundancies in the Wrekin area last year and we are facing a huge increase this year. As already mentioned the Cuts in all of the Public Services are going to be really savage. There are proposed reductions in the centrally employed teachers services and also an increase in redundancies in schools. Although the government state that schools will not face cuts in reality this is not the case. We respond to all potential redundancies and will look for alternative savings if possible and we will appeal if we feel the process has not been handled fairly.

Casework

We have again seen an increase in casework. We continue to have cases involving 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.

Membership

We had another good year for recruitment and our Division continues to grow. We have held regular meetings on various topics covering local and national issues. Please let us know if you have changed schools or you have moved to a new address. Also if you haven't given us your email address could you please forward it as this will enable me to get information out to you quickly.

Other work of the Union

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

We have sent delegates to various conferences and courses throughout the year. These include National Conference, Young Teachers events, Representatives training, Health and Safety, Advisory Committees, Campaigning Training, 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 website.

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 on all the campaigns this year. A special thanks to Hazel Duggan and Pam Rudge for attending meetings and dealing with casework issues when I have been unable to do so. I would also like to thank all our Regional Staff for their support and hard work.

Although Kari Anson was not successful in her bid to become your Executive member she gained a good number of votes. Thank you to all members who voted. She was successful in retaining her place on the Young Teachers Committee.

I would also like to thank all our School Representatives for their work it is much appreciated. We have been pleased to see an increase in the number of Representatives and contacts in schools. This allows us to deal with issues quickly. Also if there is a Representative who is able to have regular meetings with Head Teachers casework is much less likely to arise or become serious.

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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