



NEW DEAL FOR TEACHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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NASUWT wants the new Westminster Government to commit to a new deal and new policies which will help to improve education for every child and young person in Northern Ireland and across the UK.

While education is devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly, decisions taken in Westminster do have a knock-on effect in Northern Ireland.

Children's lives and futures are being damaged, principally by a lack of investment in our schools, colleges and wider support services for children and families. More teachers and principals are leaving the profession prematurely, whilst targets to train the next generation of teachers are being missed, holding back a generation and damaging our country's prospects for the future.

Our children and young people deserve better.

We believe that investing in a brighter future for our children starts with investing in our teachers.

FULLY FUNDING EDUCATION

The mechanism by which state schools are funded is critical to securing an inclusive and world-class education system, operating in the public interest and contributing to the maintenance of a democratic, just and inclusive society.

Schools are under significant pressure to cut costs, including reducing education support staff and services as a quick way to balance the books, which will have the adverse impact of reducing specialist support to young people with additional educational needs as well as a deleterious impact on attempts to close the poverty-related attainment gap.

There has also been an increase in precarious work, linked to budgetary constraints, and NASUWT has been campaigning around the lack of job security, the reduced availability of work and inequitable mechanisms for securing posts. Teachers with protected characteristics and from marginalised communities are disproportionately impacted.

Looking forward, Northern Ireland's education system needs national funding levels to be increased significantly to enable employing authorities, schools and colleges to receive the resources they need and which supports the provision of good terms and conditions for teachers.

We want the next Westminster Government to deliver a New Deal that will:

- · secure improved funding for schools, colleges and other public services;
- invest in the infrastructure of wider support services for children and families.

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