



**NEW DEAL
FOR TEACHERS**

POLITICAL BRIEFING

Violence at the Chalk Face
– Why Behaviour in Schools Matters

Violence at the Chalk Face

– Why Behaviour in Schools Matters



MAKE CHANGE
HAPPEN

Introduction

Maintaining good pupil behaviour and discipline in schools and colleges is essential for effective teaching and learning. This analysis examines the importance of behaviour management and the experiences of teachers and leaders, and proposes actions to address the escalating issue of violence and indiscipline in educational settings.

Significance of Behaviour Management

Effective teaching and learning rely on a conducive environment fostered by good behaviour and discipline.

- Promoting good behaviour and addressing pupil indiscipline are critical for enhancing educational achievement and overall wellbeing.
- Clear government support is essential to empower schools in promoting good behaviour and managing discipline effectively.

Experiences of Teachers and School Leaders

A survey conducted by NASUWT revealed alarming trends in experiences with pupil behaviour:

- Over the past year, a significant percentage of respondents reported experiencing physical and verbal abuse from pupils, including incidents of hitting, kicking and verbal insults.
- The survey indicated a disturbing increase in violent and abusive behaviours among pupils, leading to feelings of blame, acceptance of poor behaviour as part of the job, and lack of support from schools or colleges.
- Poor pupil behaviour takes a toll on teachers and leaders, affecting morale, confidence and mental health, leading to stress, anxiety and depression.

Call to Action

Addressing the crisis of violence and indiscipline in schools requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders:

- Strengthen guidance on behaviour management, clarifying policies on suspension and exclusion while ensuring schools uphold safe and respectful environments.
- Allocate protected time for teachers to access professional development focused on behaviour management through nationally agreed training.
- Collaborate with unions to develop specific guidance on managing social media-driven pupil disorder.
- Establish partnership approaches involving schools, police, youth justice services and other stakeholders to promote good behaviour and share expertise and resources effectively.

Conclusion

Violence and indiscipline in schools pose significant challenges to the wellbeing of teachers, leaders and students. Governments must prioritise creating safe and respectful learning environments by providing guidance, resources and support to schools. NASUWT remains committed to standing with teachers against unacceptable working conditions, advocating for necessary reforms, and ensuring that every teacher can work in a safe and conducive environment.

About Us

NASUWT is The Teachers' Union and is the voice of the teaching profession.

Our aim is to improve and protect the status, morale and working conditions of the teaching profession so that teachers and headteachers can provide the best education and support to children and young people.

We are committed to ensuring that teachers and headteachers are recognised and rewarded as highly skilled professionals with working conditions that enable them to focus on their core role of leading teaching and learning.

Further Information

For further information please email campaigns@mail.nasuwat.org.uk

NASUWT
The Teachers' Union

nasuwt.org.uk