

East Riding of Yorkshire NEU (NUT Section) News

Welcome to the latest edition of the East Riding Newsletter. If you want to find out more about anything in this newsletter, or discuss any issues in your school, please come along to the next division meeting on Saturday 24th February @ 10:00, The Tiger Inn, Beverley. All welcome.

In this edition:

1. **School Cuts:** includes a link to the recent Hull Daily Mail article on teacher and support staff job losses, featuring Divisional Secretary, Damian Walenta <https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/education/50-jobs-risk-schools-reach-1181709>
2. **The Mental Health Crisis in Education:** with a link to the recent Hull Daily Mail article featuring Damian Walenta: <https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/education/east-riding-teachers-take-more-1218005>
3. **Workload** The new East Riding Division Online Workload Survey – tell us about your workload in this anonymous survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScA_9PHEtCvuGeyeNzcrljIH8sNC7eaLhE_UXPXgaQAIsfkA/viewform

4. Baseline Testing II

5. Teachers are worth a 5% payrise

We are constantly working with individuals and school groups to improve the working lives of our members. Please get in touch regarding any issues in your school.

1. School Cuts

New figures produced by the National Education Union reveal the true extent of the damage being done by education funding cuts.

The figures based on the annual school census figures show that pupil:teacher ratios are rising - class sizes are going up and there is less individual attention for children.

In secondary schools staff numbers have fallen by 15,000 – an average of 5.5 staff being cut in each school.

Worse still is on the horizon with 17,942 schools (equal to nine out of ten) hit by a real term cut in funding per pupil from 2015-19.

You can check the updated figures for your school and local area on the joint union website <https://schoolcuts.org.uk/#/>

Children and young people only get one chance at school and we know that education cuts never heal.

As a country we should be investing in this and future generations of young people – so here are some things you can do:

- look out for more campaign news and materials
- talk to your head about holding a parents meeting
- email your MP to ask them to speak up on funding
- invite local councillors to your school to discuss the cuts
- if you have council elections email the candidates
- use #schoolcuts on Twitter and social media

Damian Walenta, East Riding Divisional Secretary, spoke to the HDM about potential job losses in the East Riding and the effect of cuts on local schools: <https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/education/50-jobs-risk-schools-reach-1181709>

The local school cuts campaign is relaunching in April. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch, or come to the meeting on Saturday 24th February @ 10:00, The Tiger Inn, Beverley

2. Mental Health Crisis in Education

A Freedom of Information, requested by East Riding Councillor Denis Healy, found that teacher absence rates in the county due to mental health issues are some of the highest in the UK.

A report from the Children's Commissioner for England in July last year found that over 800,000 children in England have a mental health problem, while a separate review showed that over a quarter of children referred to mental health services in 2015 received no help — even those who had attempted suicide.

Speaking to the Hull Daily Mail, Damian Walenta said that schools are becoming toxic environments for both teachers and pupils:

<https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/education/east-riding-teachers-take-more-1218005>

3. Workload

A key factor in the deteriorating mental health of teachers is a lack of work life balance. Workload is the number one issue for teachers across the country, and it is an issue that requires a collective response.

We are launching an East Riding Workload Survey to try to tackle this difficult and damaging issue. A good response to this survey could really change things, so please do pass this on to your teaching colleagues:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScA_9PHEtCvuGeyeNzcrihIH8sNC7eaLhE_UXPXgaQAIsfkA/viewform

4. Baseline Testing II

The government has announced new plans to introduce Baseline Testing for 4 year-old children – starting with a pilot scheme in 2019. A similar scheme was abandoned in 2016 after a pilot scheme proved to be unreliable.

The government want to use Baseline testing as an accountability measure, despite the fact that children in reception class are born up to a year apart.

The NEU is working with a coalition of early years and childhood development experts to oppose this move -and to campaign for a change to the system of testing find out more at www.morethanascore.co.uk

If you would like to be involved in a local campaign on baseline testing,

***please get in touch or come to the meeting on Saturday 24th February
@ 10:00, The Tiger Inn, Beverley***

5. Teachers are worth a 5% pay rise

The government has been urged to address the growing crisis in teacher recruitment and retention.

Teachers' pay has fallen by up to 15% since 2010.

In July 2017 the School Teacher Review Body (STRB) said that the fall in comparative salaries for teachers was, presenting "a substantial risk to the functioning of an effective education system".

The NEU has submitted a pay claim of 5% for all teachers, which is supported by headteacher unions

A petition in support of this claim has been launched at

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/202526>

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