



NEU ANNOUNCE INDICATIVE BALLOT ON PAY

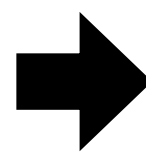
The Government recently recommended to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) an unfunded 2.8% pay rise for teachers in 2025/26.

- After 14 years of austerity imposed on the education sector, many headteachers will be faced with a stark choice in September – either deny the pay increase in the midst of a recruitment and retention crisis, or cut other parts of the school budget in order to fund teacher pay.
- The evidence submitted to the STRB reveals this government for what it is – a pro-austerity government, committed to the same failed policies as previous Conservative governments. It is a far cry from what is needed. The National Education Union (NEU) School Cuts website shows that billions more investment is needed just to reverse the effect of austerity since 2010. And although the Starmer government has pledged to recruit an extra 6,500 teachers, the NEU estimates 33,000 are actually needed.
- 2.8% barely exceeds the Bank of England's own (optimistic) projections for inflation of 2.75%. This will do nothing restore wages in the sector, where experienced teachers currently earn 11% less in real terms than in 2010, and perpetuates the pay differences between England and the rest of the UK. Scottish teachers at the top of the main pay scale currently earn £7,000 more than their counterparts in England.

BALLOT OPENS 1ST MARCH

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