

# Workers' Liberty

Education Workers



## Pay Ballot - Raise Clear Demands



In the union's consultative ballot of teachers over pay and funding, 50.3% voted and 90.3% of them voted yes to industrial action. Support staff's ballot closes on 19 April.

We will decide the next steps at conference this week.

If we decide to build on the consultative ballot result towards a formal ballot for action, then we can win on many of the issues facing school workers. Only through action can we force the government to pay us more, fund our schools and address the workload crisis.

It has been harder to get members to vote in this year's consultative than in last year's.

Why?

1. The issue of pay is less acutely felt than at this time last

year. Inflation is down and we won a significant rise. However, pay remains a central and motivating issue for many.

2. Members took eight days' strike action last year, which came at a cost financially and of physical effort from activists.

3. The wider union strike wave of 2022-23 has diminished, and other school unions have been less combative.

Last year's pay and funding campaign won, from an intransigent government, a much greater pay rise than they intended to give. We won some extra funding, and some promises on workload.

But we could have won more. Had we continued the action, we could have pushed the

government into further concessions.

NEU's leadership and Executive recommended acceptance, which helped to carry the vote. They promised that the campaign would continue, implying that industrial action could restart this year and in subsequent years. But the efforts to get the vote out for this year's consultative ballot suggest that they made this assertion too lightly.

By last summer, the wider strike wave was waning, but was still more active than today, and a renewed effort by our union could have boosted it.

Building on the consultative ballots' outcome means engaging members and activists, convincing them that

we can win this battle and that it is worth winning. To do that we need precise demands, for example:

- a 10% or £3,000 pay rise, whichever is higher
- a formula for ongoing pay rises to address the fall in our real wages since 2010
- pay rises fully funded

- a per-pupil rise in funding of £750

We should also address workload explicitly in our demands:

- a Teaching Assistant and a qualified teacher in every class
- enough staff to enable class sizes of 23 (primary) and 25

(secondary), roughly in line with the Scottish average.

With specific demands such as these, which address members' concerns, we can organise to win a formal ballot and take the fight to the government.

# End the War! Peace! Two States!

## Fringe Meeting With Standing Together - Jews and Palestinians for Peace



Standing together is “a grassroots movement mobilising Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel in pursuit of peace, equality, and social and climate justice.”

It is campaigning in Israel against the war and its members have organised two recent direct-action aid convoys to the Kerem-Shalom Gaza crossing - both denied access by the police and military - in order to raise the urgent need for aid.

This meeting is a chance to hear from Nadav Shofet, a member of the national leadership of Standing Together.

“Our recognition of the right of both peoples for safety, dignity, and freedom clashes with the Israeli political establishment, which continues to promote ethnic cleansing, violent military control, incarceration, and the denial of millions of Palestinians of civil rights and sovereignty”

- *Standing Together Statement*

“Efforts to silence and isolate Standing Together do not serve the Palestinian cause, they serve the interests of Israel’s political establishment, which is also attempting to silence us. Standing Together is the only organisation that has provided us and tens of thousands of Palestinian citizens of Israel a safe political refuge during these challenging times”

- *Statement by Palestinian members of the national leadership of Standing Together*

# Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April

## Elstead Hotel, Kynveton Road

### 6pm - 7:30pm

