

A message to parents and carers

Why are teachers going on strike?

TEACHERS WHO ARE members of the National Education Union (NEU) will be taking national strike action on Wednesday 1st February.

We do not want to strike, but the government have given us no choice. We are striking for education and we hope you will support us, despite the inconvenience it will cause.

We are taking strike action because we are concerned that cuts to teachers' pay, and lack of funding for schools, are causing a crisis in education.

- *The value of teachers and support staff pay has fallen by 20% since 2010.*
- *This has caused a crisis in recruitment and retention.*
- *More teachers, and school leaders, than ever are leaving their jobs and*

the government cannot recruit enough teachers to replace them.

- *Funding for schools has not kept in line with rising costs.*
- *This means that:*
 - *many schools face difficulties finding the teachers they need;*
 - *SEND children are not getting the support they need;*
 - *Schools are spending less on important equipment and resources;*
 - *schools are cutting back on extra-curricular clubs and classes.*

This cannot go on, for the sake of education the government must change its policy on pay and funding.

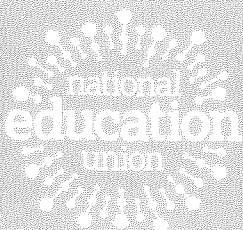
We have tried talking to the government - we have provided evidence about this crisis to them year after year, but they have ignored our warnings.

That is why we have reluctantly made the decision to take strike action.

We are calling on the government to increase pay for teachers and support staff, but they must also increase funding for schools.

We are asking parents and carers to:

- **support** our strike action and our campaign to boost funding for education.
- **talk** to teachers at your child's school to find out more about our campaign and how you can support us.
- **contact** your MP and local councillors and tell them that you support NEU members taking strike action.



Campaigning for children and education

For more information visit www.neu.org.uk