

Pensions, pay and more
All the latest news, including plans for the curriculum.

Promoting Welsh language
Video encourages children to search, see and hear.

New model for organising
Building union activity in Wales.

educateinwales

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School Cuts Cymru campaign launched at the Urdd Eisteddfod

AFTER years of underfunding from Westminster, schools in Wales are facing the biggest funding shortfall in a generation.

As a result, 942 schools across Wales have suffered cuts to per-pupil funding since 2015. This means fewer staff and resources, less individual support for each child, a reduction in support for additional learning needs and curriculum cutbacks to arts, sport and music.

Heads, teachers and school staff are doing all they can to mitigate the impact on children, but this is not sustainable.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) highlighted a decrease in funding for schools in Wales of five per cent between 2009-10 and 2017-18. The National Assembly's own research service cites a decrease of 7.9 per cent in real terms between 2010-11 and 2018-19.

No matter how you look at the figures, there is simply not enough money in the education system in Wales. If Wales is to deliver a world-class education system, as it aims to do, more funding is essential.

Education professionals in Wales are expected to do more with less. With the new curriculum and assessment arrangements on the way, far-reaching reforms to the Additional Learning Needs system, the target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 and new Professional Standards, our education professionals and learners need more support, not less.

If these funding shortfalls aren't addressed as a matter of urgency, it will only get worse.



School Cuts Cymru's stand at the Eisteddfod attracted hundreds of visitors

NATIONAL Education Union (NEU) Cymru, in collaboration with ASCL Cymru, NAHT Cymru and UCAC, launched its School Cuts Cymru campaign on the first day of the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay.

The campaign is calling on the Westminster Government to increase its level of funding to Wales by halting and reversing

cuts to the Welsh Government block grant.

It is also asking the Welsh Government to ensure that school funding is sufficient, fair and transparent and that any extra money received goes directly to education.

School Cuts Cymru had a stand at the Eisteddfod that attracted hundreds of teachers, parents, governors, pupils and concerned members of the public to speak about the cuts.

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Learning dates for your diary

LEARNING is at the heart of NEU Cymru and we take pride in the local training that we provide for education professionals, local officers and workplace representatives.

The union represents the largest group of education

professionals in Wales and our belief in the power of learning is reflected in our provision of learning opportunities for NEU Cymru members.

The following courses take place in the autumn term.

TRAINING FOR REPS

The union's one- and three-day training courses for all new and existing workplace reps have been a great success, as they give reps the tools and confidence to make a real difference to members' lives.

Having listened to feedback received from those reps who have already attended, a significant change has been made to the way the courses are delivered.

Foundation and advanced reps courses are now available in the usual full three-day course, where reps will attend for all three days in one block, or can choose to attend the modular course where all three days will be done separately over a period of time.

Courses have been arranged on the following dates:

Foundation courses

13 September – modular course,

day 3 – Future Inns, Cardiff
2-4 October – 3-day course –
Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli
13-15 November – 3-day course –
Ynys Môn

Employment law

11 November – Village Hotel, Swansea

If you're interested in becoming a workplace rep and attending one of the courses, contact the NEU Cymru office.

Remember, reps are legally entitled to attend these courses. The NEU will support any rep who has difficulties getting time off work to attend.

TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

Mindfulness 8-week course

23 September – Eastern High School, Rumney

This course is available through the new WULF project, which started in April.

Many more will be organised in due course and a constantly updated list, together with the ability to register for them, can be found at eventbrite.co.uk/o/national-education-union-cymru-training-10916965546

If you have any questions about the above or would like the union to consider organising a particular course, email Lisa Williams at lisa.williams@neu.org.uk or Beth Roberts at beth.roberts@neu.org.uk

All courses must fall within the guidelines of our four main priority areas:

- essential skills
- career progression & development
- health & wellbeing
- Welsh language learning.

Check your email inbox for information on the latest training opportunities. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/neucymrutraining, follow us on Twitter at [@neucymrutrain](https://twitter.com/neucymrutrain) and visit neu.org.uk/learning-and-events

942 Welsh schools have suffered funding cuts

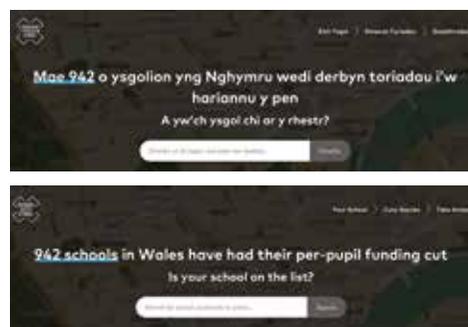
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Visitors queued to look up their school on the new School Cuts Cymru website, which is available in Welsh at toriadauiysgolion.cymru and English at schoolcuts.cymru (pictured, right).

ITV Wales interviewed NEU Cymru's secretary David Evans, who said: "Parents, children and education professionals are feeling the effects of austerity passed on by Westminster for too long now.

"With the new curriculum on the way, we need more money for resources and training. The Government needs to give more money to Wales, so the Welsh Government can pass on extra money to schools."

During the week-long event, the



campaign engaged with over 4,500 people, with more than 1,500 signing up to receive email updates.

If you'd like to receive School Cuts Cymru campaign updates, you can do so by registering at schoolcuts.cymru/welsh-actions



Over 1,500 people signed up to School Cuts Cymru

New video to promote Welsh language in schools

THE Welsh Language Commissioner will be launching a new educational pack in October to encourage primary school children to notice the Welsh language in their area.

Included in the pack is a video, lesson plan and a simple introduction for children on the work of the Welsh Language Commissioner. The pack is aimed at children in key stage 2 and has been welcomed and praised by teachers during trials in schools.

The aim of the educational pack is to show children in both Welsh and English medium schools the importance of the Welsh language in Wales, and to explain the work of the Commissioner. It wants to encourage children to search for, see, and hear Welsh in their area.

The educational pack follows the aims of the Language Charter and promotes the use of Welsh socially in Welsh medium primary schools.

In the video, filmed by Cardiff production company Goriad, we see 10-year-



10-year-old Briallen Rees-Owen and 11-year-old Cai Efan Thomas being filmed for the Welsh language video

old Briallen Rees-Owen and 11-year-old Cai Efan Thomas from Brynman Primary School, walking together around their village looking for Welsh signs, and where the children can speak Welsh. They see the Welsh language in the local supermarket, the leisure centre, the library, the rugby club, a café and a local shop.

They also notice that some of those who work in these places wear a *Iaith Gwaith* badge or lanyard.

If you would like any further information, contact the Welsh Language Commissioner's communications officer, Glesni Haf Parry, at glesni.parry@comisiynyddygybraeg.cymru

NEU Cymru welcomes plans for the new curriculum

PLANS for the new curriculum in Wales have been sent out for consultation.

The plans offer an opportunity for Wales to lead the way and allow education professionals to help children and young people learn holistically, giving a breadth of knowledge and skills to support their personal development towards being healthy, contented adults.

But there is a way to go – the publication

of the curriculum consultation is only the start.

To get to the summit, education professionals are going to need support. Extra INSET days is a start, but real investment is needed to ensure that there isn't an impact on workload and that training is available to everyone involved in education to realise the potential of Curriculum 2022.

The curriculum is only one part of the

reform agenda. The current high-stakes accountability system must be replaced, as the minister has said will happen.

Schools must be able to focus on learning, not on tests and exams. Alongside plans to make Estyn more supportive, this is the start of a process which could mean real change for Wales.

The closing date for consultation responses is 19 July.

'Pay parity is a fundamental principle'

THE union has responded to a Welsh Government statement on Teaching: A valued profession, a report by Professor Mick Waters.

NEU Cymru feels that pay portability and parity is essential to retain talented and hardworking teachers.

The Education Minister rightly referred to "committing to the principle of 'no detriment'" when maintaining comparable pay scales, aligning policy with former First Minister Carwyn Jones' promise that those

"NEU Cymru feels that pay portability and parity is essential to retain teachers."

teaching in Wales will not be worse off than their near neighbours.

The union has always emphasised the need to avoid any semblance of regional pay as it would see teachers worse off than colleagues across the border. NEU Cymru will carry this principle into all future discussions with the Welsh Government and when providing evidence to the independent pay review body that has been established to make recommendations on teachers' pay in Wales.

Here to help

AS the largest education union, NEU Cymru can offer members an unrivalled service.

Our professional team is here to provide expertise to our network of workplace representatives and district and branch secretaries.

If you have a problem at work or want to know more about member services, contact:

- your workplace representative;
- your branch secretary;
- Adviceline;
- NEU Cymru office.

NEU Cymru

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Joint general secretaries:

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THE union had a stall at the week-long annual Urdd Eisteddfod at Cardiff Bay, the largest youth festival in Europe. We were very pleased to be joined by Show Racism the Red Card, which gave away wristbands, stickers and posters of Welsh sports teams. The main attraction this year was the drawing competition (pictured), which drew in more than 150 entries, with the overall winner being Rose Foskett from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown.

A new model for organising

IN recent years, a growing number of grassroots activists have worked very hard to build union activity in Wales, with some success.

Organising in our districts is our biggest challenge in Wales and it is a fight we must win, which is why we are completely on board with the organising agenda of our new union.

Many of us know how hard it can be to get members to attend meetings. We understand their reluctance because the main reason given for non-attendance is workload. Now we have created a model training/rep course, which is helping us to engage with members who have never attended a training course or a meeting before.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, we have put together a three-day bespoke course called Organising through Health and Safety at work. It aims to recruit new health and safety reps while also encouraging new members to attend because the issues it covers are those that worry members most – workload, stress and mental health issues.

The approach uses the communication skills of the district secretary, the training experience of the senior Wales officer (lay support) and the financial and teaching support of the WULF fund and co-ordinator.

All these elements have been

instrumental in the success of this pilot initiative and in providing training for members that is relevant to the needs of the education workforce in Wales.

With a district meeting thrown in each lunchtime, which alleviates worries about reaching quorum, participants have been updated on issues such as conference, motions and Wales' council. These meetings also encourage members to become activists.

As secretary, I only knew two of the ten course participants before the course began but, as a result, we have recruited two new district officers and three new school health and safety reps.

Thanks to the legacy ATL section for the idea of holding CPD with every meeting – it's a formula I will be using from now on and I encourage other secretaries with quorum worries to consider it too.

If you are a Welsh branch or district secretary and you would like to use the same (or similar) methods to engage with current and potential reps in your own districts, contact the Wales office in the first instance who will pass your details to the relevant people. Mairead Canavan, executive member for Wales, branch and district secretary for the Vale of Glamorgan

NEU Cymru welcomes pension funding

THE Welsh Government has agreed to meet the full cost of additional estimated pressure on schools and further education institutions arising out of changes to teachers' pensions.

The additional costs, passed on by the

Westminster Government, amount to £47.7m.

NEU Cymru has welcomed the announcement to avoid unnecessary pressures on schools and colleges at a time when budgets are already at crisis point.