

Nominate Debs Gwynn for NEU NEC District 4



The Union response to Covid

The last year has been more than challenging for everyone in the country, not least for students and school staff. I believe the NEU, at national and local levels, has played an excellent role in this crisis, and I have been active in shaping and helping to lead the union's response.

When Merseyside and Lancashire went into Tier 3 in October, I had a key role in calling members' meetings to push for rotas in schools and colleges to reduce numbers on site. This position was subsequently adopted by the union nationally.

Colleagues in London called a similar meeting in December, due to sky high infection rates, which contributed to the Government's u-turn to close schools to most students. These meetings were vital for building members' confidence.

The fight continues

Members in nurseries and special schools have been hung out to dry by the Government, as their provisions stay open to all students. I will continue to support my colleagues in these settings to organise and fight for a safer workplace.

Union organising

In January, we saw reps and school groups step up to translate the national union's advice on health and safety into decisive action on the ground. As a result, we gained 21,000 new members nationally and hundreds of new reps. This has shown why it is so important that reps and activists are key to moving the union forward and protecting members' rights.

Equality and social justice

The Covid pandemic has highlighted the inequalities in society and the education system. As a SENDCo and Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, I see these inequalities daily.

For the two years I have been an Executive Member I have sat on the Policy, Research and Campaigns Committee and contributed to a number of union initiatives, including campaigns on Child Poverty and SEND funding.

Last year, I helped to organise a North West meeting on "Decolonising the Curriculum", contributed to the NEU's national roundtable on SEND and was a panellist at the East Midlands SEND conference.

The future

If re-elected, I will continue to campaign for:

- **better pay and conditions for all staff, including supply and support staff**
- **the end to exam factories, high stakes assessments and Ofsted**
- **all equalities groups and members with protected characteristics**
- **proper funding for all nurseries, schools and colleges**
- **an inclusive education system and curriculum, which celebrates diversity and is relevant to all learners**

I am happy to speak at district meetings and answer members' questions.

I welcome your support and hope to receive your nomination.

Contact details

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