

## **Protecting Independent School Teachers' Pensions**

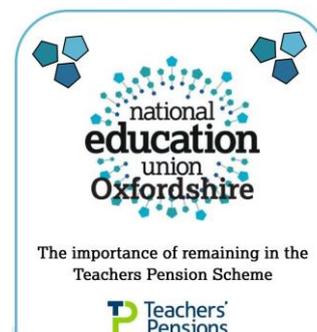
The increase in the employer contribution to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) in September 2019 has seen a sizeable number of independent sector school employers withdraw from the scheme. Since 2020 Covid-19 has exacerbated the situation.

NEU members in over 60 independent schools have successfully defeated their employer's proposals to deprive them of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. Here in Oxfordshire we have also held successful ballots and strikes to prevent schools moving away from the TPS.

Member success comes from early collective union response backed by the possibility of industrial action. Others have learnt the hard way that action cannot be left until the end of a consultation that can be just a tick-box exercise.

Therefore, it is vital that members inform [oxfordshiredistrict@neu.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshiredistrict@neu.org.uk) ASAP if there is any mention or discussion regarding changes to pensions in their workplace.

Further information regarding steps to take, and the importance of remaining in the TPS can be found below by clicking on the images.



## **Save our maintained nursery schools**

There are only 385 maintained nursery schools left in England after three more were forced to close this summer.

Next week, Tuesday 19 October, MNS members from National Education Union (NEU), National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), and Unison, along with Early Education, will be [marching on](#)

This small but highly valuable sector needs our support and the solidarity of NEU colleagues to amplify their voice! Please sign our [letter to the Chancellor](#) calling for long term funding for maintained nursery schools.

[Downing Street to hand deliver a letter to the Chancellor](#) demanding the long promised, long term funding settlement for MNS in the autumn Comprehensive Spending Review.



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## **Global Day of Action for Climate Justice**

**12:00 | Saturday, 6th November 2021**

The COP26 climate talks will take place in Glasgow between 31 October and 13 November. You can make your voice heard by joining the day of action on Saturday 6 November, to demand climate justice at the COP26. You can join the action in Glasgow, London or your local area. [For more information click here.](#)

Climate change resources to use in school are available from [Votes for Schools \(VfS\)](#) and [UNICEF UK](#)



Later this month, the Chancellor will announce his spending plans for the next three years as part of his autumn budget.

We are asking you to send a letter to your MP, asking them to press the Chancellor to ensure that teachers and support staff in schools and colleges are paid properly following the 0 per cent increase for school teachers in England and below inflation offers for others.

[Click here to send a letter to your MP.](#)

Despite your contribution to the nation's response to the pandemic, we as a profession have been consistently overlooked by this Government. All education professionals deserve to be valued.

We have written a draft letter for you to send to your MP which makes the case for better funding for education in England and Wales and argues against a repetition of this year's public sector pay policy. [Click here to send the letter to your MP.](#)

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## No Child Left Behind

Last week the Government cut support for millions of families just doing their best.

1.7 million children from families on Universal Credit, some earning as little as £7,400 per year, were already excluded from Free School Meals.

The new cuts to Universal Credit will stretch household budgets to their limits and make it even harder for parents to make ends meet.

**No matter what's happening in the country, no child should be too hungry to learn.**

[Sign the petition telling the Prime Minister to urgently ensure Free School Meals for every child on Universal Credit.](#)

**NO CHILD  
LEFT BEHIND**



**EXTEND FREE  
SCHOOL MEALS**

753

signed



Add your name



## **Acorn Trust Fundraiser**

ACORN is a community union who **take direct action against slum landlords, estate agents, and property developers to protect members and the community.**

Without legal representation ACORN could be liable for massive costs and damages that could bankrupt their union. But it's not just damages and legal costs; if they don't have the resources to fight back against the rich and powerful when they try to take out injunctions to silence them and shut down protests, then they'll succeed.



In just a few years **ACORN has changed the lives of thousands of people** struggling in unsafe and insecure housing. They've defeated landlords, property developers, big banks, councils, and even the government - and there's so much more to come. **But unless we fight off these threats in court, ACORN's very existence could be at risk.**

**Oxfordshire NEU members already have agreed to affiliate with ACORN. Over the next year, we will continue to support ACORN and will be looking to further support their work through donations/fundraising activities.**

If you would like to know more about them, and on how you too could get involved, then please visit [Fundraiser by Nick Ballard : Don't let landlords defeat ACORN in court!](#) ([gofundme.com](#))

## Educate: September/October

2021

The September/October edition of Educate magazine is now available to read. Click on the image to read the magazine.

- Eye on the planet - pupils' message to COP26: "If not now, when?"
- Reclaim your professionalism - saying no to pointless tasks.



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## My NEU

If you haven't logged into My NEU before, then please visit [myNEU — The National Education Union](#) to get access to all your membership benefits and discounts.



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## **Members Survey**

Oxfordshire NEU Officers & Committee members are committed in supporting all members and reps in their workplace. To do this more effectively we do need to engage with more members. We hold regular General Meetings, but even with the assistance of 'Zoom', uptake has lapsed over recent months.

Currently, Oxfordshire NEU hosts meetings on Thursday evenings from 5.30pm - 7.00pm at the Jury's Inn, Wolvercote, Oxford, but we know we need to be more flexible and also offer alternatives to meeting dates and times.

We are aiming to re-launch our "Chit-Chat" sessions (held in the North, West, South and City), which are informal "drop-in" style meetings, where members can pop in for a drink and a chat on Friday's after work as well as hosting Social Events throughout the year. Hearing what our members want, need and would like to see in Oxfordshire is at the heart of our organising.

We would therefore appreciate it if you could **complete the following survey** [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HVFdzCqOQUeT\\_Z23toHe1T-hBQBp3AdEtzuNega-2OhUNkNYU1VUNDdPQ09HSUNWFMFIVOVpWOTNaRi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HVFdzCqOQUeT_Z23toHe1T-hBQBp3AdEtzuNega-2OhUNkNYU1VUNDdPQ09HSUNWFMFIVOVpWOTNaRi4u) so that we can try our best to meet with you all, listen to you all and more importantly, work with you all. **The closing date for the survey is the 22nd October at 3.00pm.**

[Complete the survey here!](#)

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Please make sure to **take our survey**, and also to **return your ballot paper** for the Election of the Deputy General Secretary.

We look forward to seeing you all soon

### **Oxfordshire NEU**

**Oxfordshire** | National Education Union | Oxfordshire NEU, c/o The Oxford Academy, Sandy Lane West, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 6JZ | Advice Line: 0345 811 8111 | Mob: 07852 599485 | Email: [OxfordshireDistrict@neu.org.uk](mailto:OxfordshireDistrict@neu.org.uk)

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