

**BULLETIN for Liverpool Archdiocese Staff March 2023**

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Thanks to those colleagues who attended one of our 3 meetings recently regarding the proposals to form a new Multi Academy Trust (MAT) across the Liverpool Archdiocese.

It was clear from members that some schools are doing more than others in terms of keeping staff informed on where they currently stand on the proposal.

Members will have subsequently received the full proposal document published by the Archdiocese together with a joint union response to the changes and the letter we have sent to school governors.

A key theme from the member meetings was the lack of information provided by some schools. We have emphasised time and again that schools should consult staff directly regarding any changes that could affect them. These proposals potentially involve schools from a huge geographic area and it can't be right that some are informed and others aren't.

Members stressed the importance of keeping each other up-to-date. Schools don't always think to inform the local UNISON branch when they begin consulting. It is crucial that any movement regarding these proposals at our schools needs to be communicated. Having a rep or contact in school is the best way of doing this so if you are interested in getting active then let us know.

Members also felt that there was nothing to be gained for our schools under these proposals. A key point raised by many was the loss of local accountability. The scope of this MAT will be huge—almost half of the North-West. How do local people get involved in schools if they are run from a distant headquarters miles away? The crucial links schools have with their communities is put at risk.

The fact that this MAT will cover 8 different local authorities also caused concern. The terms and conditions of staff can differ between authorities. How do they propose to deal with what could become a two-tier workforce if staff are conditioned to different local arrangements. It seems this hasn't been given much thought as yet but we will be pressing them on this.

Members also raised fears that long established and valued links with their local authorities could be impacted. Many schools use local authority services in areas such as payroll, Human Resources and training. What is the future for these services and will alternate provision be as good or as cost-effective?

**Keep an eye out for future updates and keep us informed of any information you are provided.**

# £££ Council & School Pay 2023

With the cost-of-living skyrocketing to new highs every day, it's time to rise up and demand decent pay for the work we do.

We are asking for a pay increase of inflation + 2%. The Treasury's annual forecast for inflation for 2023 is currently 10.7%, therefore the increase we are asking for would amount to 12.7%.

This will provide all school support staff with the pay we need to keep working in vital public services without having to go from the frontline to the breadline.

We are seeking a review of job evaluation outcomes for school staff whose day to day work includes working on Special Educational Needs (SEN) to ensure we are properly paid for the job we do.

*And remember, only our recognised staff unions UNISON, Unite, GMB can negotiate our terms and conditions. No teaching union can consult support staff and they have no seat at the negotiating table. If you want a say in your pay then only recognised unions can give you that voice.*

**But it's not the same for everyone in the education sector!** A recent report in the Times Education Supplement (TES) showed that pay for those at the top in academies and academy chains is doing very nicely.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) pay is highlighted in the TES article you can read [here](#).

We need to remember this when we are told there is no money in the pot for us at the coal-face. Some of these salaries are nearly double what a Prime Minister gets paid.

Why is pay restraint always good for some but not others? We deserve more.



To view the full NJC pay claim 2023/24 just click on the link -

**[NJC 2023/24](#)**

As UNISON colleagues have been taking sustained industrial action for some time now, across different sectors, the union is now welcoming donations to our strike fund. You can donate at the details below with reference **health** for our colleagues in the NHS or **env** for Environment Agency staff.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Account name	Account No	Sort Code
UNISON	20170693	60-83-01

### Teachers' Strike Action in Schools and Sixth Form – advice for school support members

NEU have announced that they will be taking strike action in schools and sixth form colleges over pay and funding, starting on 1 February. They have announced a series of days of strike action in England and Wales for teachers. Information has been circulated previously but just as a reminder you can access the full advice bulletin just click on this [link](#) and you will be re-directed to the national guidance.

