

06 June 2023

Dear colleagues

The education system has faced years of real-term pay erosion; a funding crisis; enormous recruitment and retention challenges; escalating workload and working hours; and an inspection system that is doing more harm than good.

As a result, the four largest teacher and leader unions are in the process of balloting members in order to secure a mandate for industrial action.

Complex trade union legislation means that each union is required to carefully frame a trade dispute, and the specific details of the trade dispute your union is balloting you on will be communicated separately to this letter.

We have worked incredibly hard to engage with the government on these issues and to try to find satisfactory solutions, but it simply refuses to listen. We believe that a mandate for industrial action across all of our unions is the only way we can get your voice heard.

In an almost unprecedented show of solidarity, all four of our unions have agreed to work together on this campaign. This shows not just the sense of unity among the profession but also our determination to make sure this government starts to engage properly with us in order to address these crucial issues.

Regardless of which union you are in, it is absolutely essential we all work together to ensure everyone eligible casts their vote. This really is a time to stand together and stand up for the profession.

With that in mind, we are asking that on the week beginning **19 June**, a short staff meeting of teacher and leader union members, eligible to vote in the respective industrial action ballots, is held in **every** school in England to discuss how to maximise turnout and to encourage members to return their ballot papers. Please enter the time, date and location of your meeting in the white box on the poster accompanying this letter.

Whether you are in the same union or in different unions, this will provide a perfect opportunity to come together and show your solidarity for one another in this ongoing campaign.

We are all clear that we are now in a battle for the very future of education – stand with your colleagues and join us as we strive to bring about real change.

Yours in solidarity,



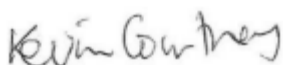
Geoff Barton
ASCL General Secretary



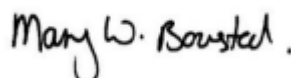
Paul Whiteman
NAHT General Secretary



Patrick Roach
NASUWT General Secretary



Kevin Courtney
NEU Joint General Secretary



Mary Bousted
NEU Joint General Secretary