

## GMB responds to SEN plan

GMB School Support Staff have warned the Government not to neglect the needs of SEN pupils.

The Government is proposing big changes to SEN provision in England:

- replacing the SEN statement with "Education, Health and Care Plans". The Government says this will improve co-ordination across services.
- changing the assessment process to end what the Government claims is the "over-identification" of SEN.
- replacing School Action and School Action Plus with a new single category of SEN.
- clearing the way for special schools to become academies.

The proposals have been closely scrutinised by GMB's National Schools Committee, which is made up of GMB members working in schools across the country.

In our response, GMB has warned the Government not to let concern about "over-identification" of SEN get in the way of *early* identification.

GMB members were adamant that children who *do* have additional needs must not be neglected by the system.

They also felt that the Government had failed to recognise the vital roles played by school support staff in supporting SEN pupils.

The Union called for urgent clarification about what the new "Education, Health and Care Plans" will look like, to end the uncertainty for statemented children and staff. We also raised the issue of medical provision in schools, which we think needs urgent attention.

The Government says it will start piloting its SEN reforms in a selection of local authorities in September.

### SEN: KEY FACTS

**Over 1.6 million** children are identified as having SEN. That's 20% of all pupils.

**200,000** SEN children have a statement, while **1.4 million** are at School Action or School Action Plus.

**The most common** type of SEN is:

- for children **under 7**: speech, language and communication difficulties
- for children **aged 7 to 11**: moderate learning difficulties
- for children **aged 12-17**: behavioural, emotional and social difficulties

2.4% of **boys** and 0.9% of **girls** have a statement. Boys with a statement are most likely to have an autistic spectrum disorder. Girls with a statement are most likely to have moderate learning difficulties.



**1** Start by filling in details about yourself.  
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

**2** Then fill in details about your job

**3** Then choose how to pay: EITHER by deductions from your pay

**4** OR by Direct Debit from your bank or building society

**5** Hand the form to your GMB representative, or post it – you don't need a stamp – to GMB, FREEPOST, GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region, Grove Hall, 60 College Grove Road, Wakefield WF1 3RN

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

£6.29 PER MONTH  
(term-time only)

If you work 10 hours or less per week - £3.47 per month

**FOR UNION USE ONLY** Section    Branch No    Membership No        Date of joining

**GMB YORKSHIRE & NORTH DERBYSHIRE REGION membership application form**

**1 TELL US ABOUT YOU**

Surname  First name  Title  Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr Date of birth

Home address  Home Tel  Email

Postcode  Mobile  I agree to abide by GMB rules Signature

Date    We ask for your ethnic origins as part of our equal opportunities policy of improving services to all members  
Bangladeshi  / Black African  / Black Caribbean  / Black British  / Chinese  / Indian  / Pakistani  / White  / Other

**2 TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB**

Employer  Your job

Address where you work  Postcode

How many hours a week do you work?  Pay No

Work Tel  Pay Date

**3 CHOOSE EITHER AUTHORISATION OF DEDUCTION OF YOUR TRADE UNION CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR PAY**

*Section 68, Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidated) Act 1992 as amended*

- I authorise my employer to deduct from my pay each week/month the sum of £  or other amounts as may be fixed by the GMB from time to time.
- Please start the deductions immediately and pay the amounts to the GMB. Cash
- I note that this agreement may be cancelled by one month's notice in writing.
- I give permission to my employer to notify the GMB of any future change of address.

Signed  Date

**4 OR INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY DIRECT DEBITS**



Please fill in the form and send to **GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region**, Grove Hall, 60 College Grove Road, Wakefield WF1 3RN

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch

To the Manager of  Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/Building Society Account Number

Bank/Building Society Sort Code

Reference number (Office use only)

Originator's Identification Number

9 7 4 3 3 0

For GMB official use only. This is not part of the instruction to your Bank/Building Society. If your A/C number is not available fill in your address below.

**Instructions to your Bank or Building Society.**  
Please pay GMB Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with GMB and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks or Building Societies may not accept instructions for some types of account