



25th September 2017

Dear GMB Reps

The GMB is writing to ask that you alert us should you have been approached by the newly established National Education Union (NEU). Only your union the GMB has a right to represent and negotiate on your behalf.

Your pay, terms and conditions including your pensions are negotiated via the National Joint Council. The GMB is a member of the National Joint Council. The GMB has a seat at the Scheme Advisory Board which looks after your Pension. It's your union the GMB that attends regular meetings to raise issues of all staff including school staff through the National Joint Council.

The GMB union has representation and bargaining rights of school support staff covered under the National Joint Council of which all school staff pay, terms and conditions are covered. The NEU does not have seat or bargaining rights at the NJC. Through the National Joint Council the GMB raises issues such as pay, terms, conditions and pensions.

These principles are also reflected in number of TUC agreements that the NUT and ATL were signatories to.

The GMB is also leading the campaign to call for an end to the public sector pay pinch – see our campaign website www.paypinch.org We are the only union that has produced campaign materials on the government's real cuts to the pay of teaching assistants and other schools support staff workers. It's the GMB who campaigned and lobbied government for a School Support Staff Negotiating Body and we continue to do so.

The GMB also works collectively with Unison and Unite who are the only other two unions that are members of the National Joint Council. Only recently, under the Trades Union Congress, we agreed a Multi Academy Trust facility agreement to ensure support staff continues to receive the same facility entitlement as under the National Joint Council.

It is profoundly disappointing that some individuals are spreading myths and downright misinformation. This is not only reckless - it seeks to undermine your representation at work.

Our priority will always be to deliver strong representation for school support staff across all schools. We are raising evidence of activities that undermine that representation at the highest level – and if you have experienced attempts to recruit GMB members or other support staff into a teachers' union, then please let us know at

We hope this memo assists you in challenging improper recruitment activity that you might be aware of in your school. Membership with the NEU would be a waste of money when the union has no rights or jurisdiction to represent and negotiate on your behalf. We are keen to support you further so should you wish us to come and meet with you in your workplace please contact info@gmb.org.uk or your local GMB branch office.

GMB Schools Sector

All enquiries to schools@gmb.org.uk

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