

General Election - stop the cuts, no to PRP, scrap SATs, end CEO pay scandal

A General Election has been called for June 8. This is arguably the most important election for Education and the Trade Union movement since World War 2.

We have a Government committed to:

- ⊗ Savage cuts to school budgets
- ⊗ The reintroduction of divisive grammar schools
- ⊗ Continuing the destructive testing regime in primary schools.
- ⊗ The continuation of PRP and pay restraint for school staff
- ⊗ A trimmed down curriculum restricting student options.

The Cuts are real

The Government tried to dismiss the NUT's figures about the cuts but they are based on the Government's own evidence.

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The average primary school will see a reduction of £339 per pupil, and secondary schools £477 per pupil.

If this Tory Government is re-elected 98% of schools will see real term cuts in their funding between now and 2020, with probably more to come after that.

These will be the first real term cuts in school funding in over 20 years.

Even worse, if that is possible, this Government is committed to a hard Brexit which will mean the trashing of

workers's rights, such as maternity, paternity and holiday entitlements, as well as the right of education workers to get employment anywhere in the EU.

We are already receiving cries for help from EU teachers working in Nottinghamshire who are worried about their future employment status.

Right now the best way to stop these cuts and the other attacks on school staff is to ensure that education has a high profile in the General Election campaign and for education workers to think very carefully before casting their votes on June 8.

At our members' meeting in July 2016, we passed a motion including the following:

"This association notes that both Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell, have appeared on NUT picket lines and that both Corbyn and McDonnell are committed to increased funding for schools and a fully Comprehensive Education system subject to local democratic control.

This association further notes that when Jeremy Corbyn addressed our Annual Conference at Easter 2016 he received a prolonged standing ovation from delegates following the statements that he made regarding education, in particularly his clear stance in opposition to forced academisation."

On the opening day of our Annual Conference, Easter 2017, John McDonnell, the Shadow Chancellor, also received a standing ovation. The reasons for this were obvious. John promised to reintroduce democratic



John McDonnell MP, speaking at NUT Conference, 2017

control of education, free school meals for every primary school child, an end to the privatisation and fragmentation of the education system and an end to the cuts.

There is a lot at stake in this General Election. We should not forget that running alongside cuts that are hitting teachers and support staff badly is the ignominy of Chief Executives taking huge salaries. At the ATL Conference one delegate highlighted the outgoing CEO of Ormiston Trust who 'earned' £210,000 in 2015-16. Meanwhile we have a CEO in Notts 'earning' in excess of £270,000 a year. This culture of caviar for some and gruel for others must stop after the General Election. Teachers should be part of making that happen.

Come to our **next members' meeting on May 10** where we will be discussing the General Election more fully and how we should campaign in it. Details of the meeting are in schools and can be found on our website at www.nottsnut.co.uk.

New funding formula means more cuts to nursery provision

The long-term survival of nursery provision is under threat due to alterations to the nursery funding formula and the Government's mishandling of a supposed manifesto promise of 30-hours-a-week, free childcare provision for working parents and carers.

Under the Department for Education's new funding formula more than a fifth of local authorities in England will see a reduction in per-pupil-per-hour nursery funding, coming into effect this month. This funding is distributed to private, voluntary, independent and state providers, with the Government guaranteeing that each setting will receive at least £4.30 per-hour. Private providers will be able to find

alternative sources of funding by raising fees, introducing new charges or restricting access at certain times. Maintained nurseries are already more costly as they are required to hire qualified teachers and will suffer more from cuts than the private sector, which is able to levy money from a range of different charges imposed on parents and carers.

On top of cuts to per-pupil funding the Government is attempting to implement a 'manifesto promise' of guaranteeing working parents and carers 30 hours a week free childcare. The current entitlement is 15 hours a week for all children. This policy is not being funded properly. Half of providers responding to a study conducted by the Pre-School

Learning Alliance saying they would implement the 30 hours provision said they plan to raise fees. Slightly less than half say they will charge for goods and services that were previously free and 40% plan to restrict days and times when funded places can be accessed. Most cite a shortfall in funding. With the private sector looking out for itself and overall provision left to the chaos of the market when unprofitable private providers are forced to close, the maintained sector will be left to suffer and parents and carers will struggle to access nursery places.

The 'promise' of 30 hours provision has nothing to do with improving education; if it did it would be extended to all 3 and 4 year olds. As it stands carers must earn above the equivalent of 16-hours a week on the minimum wage. Children living in families on lower incomes, the children of refugees and migrants unable to work, children in families where one or more carer is unemployed or underemployed, in short children living in precarious situations and possible deprivation, will be left behind.

The Government's approach to nursery funding and 30 hour provision is about forcing parents in to work and reducing overall government spending to the detriment of children.



Release Esmail Abdi: jailed Iranian Teacher Trade Unionist

Esmail Abdi, a High School Maths teacher, is serving a six-year jail sentence on ridiculous charges, including "assembling and colluding against national security".

Esmail Abdi's real crime is he is General Secretary of Iran's Teachers' Trade Association (ITTA).

Abdi was detained four times between 2006 and 2009. Several of his trade union's members have been jailed or driven into exile.

Trade union activity in Iran is regarded as a national security offence. Independent trade unions are stamped on, strikers are often fired and risk arrest, and trade union activists are often prosecuted on national security charges and sentenced to long prison terms.

The LabourStart website, along with Education International, are running a campaign for Abdi's

release. You can sign an email letter of protest via LabourStart website at:

https://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=3223

While in jail Abdi has been on hunger strike and held in solitary confinement.

Amnesty International is campaigning for Abdi's release, quoting him as saying, "Going by the evidence used to issue the verdicts against [me], you could say that any effort... to improve the lives and livelihood of teachers and workers in Iran can be considered acting against national security"

