



NUT Newsletter

Coventry Teachers' Association



Nicky Morgan fails the test on SATs and funding

NUT message to Nicky Morgan: "Resign now"

The NUT has taken the significant step of calling on the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan, to resign following the publication of the KS2 SATs results.

This year 47% of 11-year-old children have been told they haven't reached the "expected standard" in at least one of their SATs papers - last year this figure was only 15%.

This is extremely demoralising for children about to make the big step up to secondary school – **in effect these children have been told they have not reached the expected standard for secondary school.**

Teachers and headteachers have been warning Nicky Morgan of their concerns for months:

- *The criteria for teacher assessment did not allow teachers to recognise the strengths of pupils' work*
- *The material was not age-appropriate and too hard*
- *The curriculum wasn't in place*
- *The guidance provided to schools was confusing and constantly changing*
- *The tests were badly designed.*

To add insult to injury, many schools have found a significant number of errors when checking the marking of the tests.

The NUT believes that a Secretary of State who demands accountability from schools and teachers should apply the same principle to herself.

Therefore, because of the major failings of a key reform - and because of the effect of those failings on schools and children – we believe that Nicky Morgan should first of all apologise to all those children who took KS2 SATs this year, and then resign her post.

Headteacher petition

If you agree with this position please sign this petition, which has been launched by a group of Headteachers in Lancashire <http://alturl.com/5h4dw>

NUT strike exposes government lies on funding

The NUT strike on July 5th successfully highlighted the lies being told by the government on school funding.

In demonstrations all over the country, and in local and national media, Union members were able to get across the message that rising class sizes, cuts to support staff and cuts to courses and extra tuition are the result of

deliberate decisions taken by the government.

Claims by the government that there is more money in schools cut no ice as we were able to explain that this does not cover increases in pupil numbers and rising costs – a 5% increase in pension and NI contributions is hitting school budgets and more money is urgently needed.

The strike was an important part of our campaign on funding and national terms and conditions, which will continue next term.

NICKY MORGAN REJECTED TWICE

Nicky Morgan faced further embarrassment last week when two important bodies rejected key proposals.

1. PAY REVIEW BODY

First the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) rejected her suggestion that Heads should be able to move teachers down the pay spine. Also, in awarding a 1% rise for this year, the STRB told her that a significant pay increase will be needed next year to address problems in recruitment and retention.

2. MPs REJECT NEW OFSTED CHIEF

On Thursday, the Parliamentary Education Select Committee refused to endorse her proposal for the new Head of Ofsted. Nicky Morgan has proposed Angela Spielman, who is Head of Ofqual and closely associated with the academies programme.

However, when they interviewed Ms Spielman, MPs found serious weaknesses in her knowledge of key aspects of education and said that Nicky Morgan should reconsider the appointment. **This has never happened to a Secretary of State before – Oops!**

NUT MEMBERSHIP - UP UP UP!

The NUT has seen an unprecedented growth in new members in recent weeks.

- Since our strike ballot started over 8,000 teachers have signed up to join the NUT
- This includes 1,000 on the day before the strike
- Clearly teachers who are watching closely can see that the NUT is leading the way in the education debate.

NUT Strike 5th July 2016

Many of you will have joined the march and rally in Birmingham on 5th July. Those of you who were unable to attend missed a marvellous speech by Coventry NUT's Young Teacher Officer. The video can be seen [here](#): and this is the content of her speech:

I have just got a few apologies that I want to start with. Now, none of these are my fault, but I wanted to apologise to you because you bear the cost of these every day.

I'm sorry that it's got to this point and that you've had to leave children that you care about every day because the government won't listen to you.

I'm sorry that you have been accused this week of playing politics with children's education when you are led by a government who refuses to listen and who follows their only ideology instead of what is best for the children they are meant to be leading.

I'm sorry you have been accused of not wanting to negotiate when you are led by people who refuse to acknowledge problems like teacher shortages or funding.

I'm sorry that your professionalism has been attacked by cost cutting techniques and putting unqualified teachers in the classroom.

I'm sorry that you have had to choose between the relationship with your children and nurturing them into incredible people that we see every day and trying to get them to produce the results that are going to make you justify your pay and your conditions.

I am sorry that despite working 60+ hours a week that most of us do, and sometimes we work more than that, you still bear the brunt of jokes from those close to you and the right wing media who insist that just because you get some holidays where you can recover from exhaustion and prepare for the next year that you somehow don't deserve the time off or an evening with your friends.

I'm sorry that you have been accused of wanting more money when all you have asked for is to be appreciated for what you do every day.

I'm sorry, lastly, that you have had to make choices to work instead of spending time with your families and having a life outside out of work- that is unacceptable.

Now, we are victims of the system but I don't see myself as a victim I see myself as someone powerful who can make choices.

We have got a choice tomorrow. Today's been amazing we have gathered together, we have marched, we have been in solidarity with each other, we have united together....that's incredible and thank you for that. But we have got a choice tomorrow - what do we do? What do we do to keep standing up for education? What do we do to get parents involved? What do we do to say to this government 'No more! Enough is Enough!' It starts tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that and I encourage you to join me in that fight.



Update on 'Save Coventry Libraries' campaign

As you may have seen in the press, Councillor Maton the new Cabinet Member for Education on Coventry City Council, announced last week that a number of libraries in the city were under threat of closure. Unless volunteers come forward, five libraries, Caludon Castle, Cheylesmore, Finham, Earlsdon and Coundon will shut. Five other libraries are under threat, Hillfields, Stoke Aldermoor, Canley, Jubilee Crescent and Allesley. This will lead to the loss of 30 FTE library jobs. On Tuesday, members of Coventry NUT joined a very successful lobby of the Council meeting. Despite the rain, between 70-80 people, including the School Council from Frederick Bird School, attended and many speeches were made in defence of the libraries and librarians. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please e-mail save.coventry.libraries@gmail.com