



HOLY TRINITY STACKSTEADS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Booth Road, Stacksteads, Bacup, Lancashire. OL13 0QW
Tel: 01706 877025 Email: contact@stacksteads.lancs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr. J. Aspin B.Sc.

Wednesday 18th April 2023,

Dear Parent / Carer

THE ON-GOING INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT

Shortly before the Easter Holiday, the government made a pay offer to the Teaching Unions, following the recent pay dispute. The offer included a 4.5% pay increase for teachers, of which the government agreed to fund just 0.5%. This would mean that the remaining 4% would have to be paid from existing school budgets.

This offer was overwhelmingly rejected by all of the teaching unions, and the National Education Union (N.E.U.) called for further strike action, the first day of which is scheduled for Thursday 27th April.

Whilst the 4.5% pay offer itself was well-below the current inflation rate and did nothing to restore the value of teachers' pay that has fallen in real terms by over 20% since 2010, the unfunded nature of the large majority of it generated very strong opposition, in particular.

The purpose of writing to you is to explain how the government proposal to expect schools to fund 4% of the pay settlement, would impact on our school, if it was implemented.

The school budget is already under great pressure due to a combination of factors, such as energy prices, general inflation and other factors that have reduced income. The school budget for the new financial year that began on 1st April shows significant reductions in many areas of expenditure, and includes a number of ways to reduce staffing costs in the future. This includes having to lose the additional Key Stage 1 Class from September 2023, that we were able to put in place for the first time this year. These actions have allowed us to set a viable budget for the next 2 years.

The government proposal would increase the staffing budget by a further £33,000. This added cost to the budget could not be absorbed by the school going forward, and would inevitably result in future staffing redundancies, probably in the next 12-15 months. The amounts involved are the approximate equivalent of losing 1 teaching post, or 2 Teaching Assistant posts. These cuts to staffing would have a detrimental impact on the standard of education that we could provide for your children in the future, and undermine our ability to provide the best possible education for them.

This is why teachers overwhelmingly rejected the government offer.

Yours sincerely,

J. ASPIN

HEADTEACHER



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