



Dear member

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Advice for members in secondary schools

As you know, many secondary schools are planning to open to year 10 and year 12 students from 15 June in line with [government guidance](#). Your school should have shared detailed plans and a risk assessment with you. UNISON is urging members to check the risk assessment against the [joint union workplace checklist for secondary schools](#). Further, you should have informed your head teacher if you are in a vulnerable group (see our [guidance](#)). If you have health and safety concerns about your school's plans, or haven't seen a copy of the risk assessment, please urgently [contact your local UNISON branch](#) and see our [detailed advice](#). It sets out the steps you need to take if you are concerned that returning to work will endanger your health or if you believe that your employer's plans are not adequate.

Wider opening of primary schools

On Tuesday 9 June, Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson announced that primary schools in England will not be expected to open to all year groups ahead of the summer break. Schools can continue to be open for vulnerable children, keyworker children, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. UNISON welcomed this announcement given the challenges schools are facing with current pupil numbers. We will continue to work with ministers to ensure that September openings can happen safely and that vulnerable and disadvantaged families get the support they need.

However, in the meantime, if you have health and safety concerns about an increase in pupil numbers at your school, please [contact your local UNISON branch](#) and [see our advice](#).

NJC Pay update

UNISON's national joint council (NJC) will be carrying out a consultation of members on the employers' final pay offer of 2.75%. Your local UNISON branch will receive a consultation pack later in June. They will then be in touch with you with key information and asking whether you accept or reject the offer. In schools, only support staff union members will be consulted. Members of teacher unions such as the NEU (who can't negotiate on support staff pay) will not be consulted. You have a voice in UNISON.

Online learning opportunities for school staff

Did you know UNISON offers a wide range of online learning opportunities for members? Find out what's on offer via our [website](#). If you scroll down there are specific links relevant for:

- [all schools workers](#)
- [early years staff](#)
- [catering staff](#)
- [cleaning staff](#)

Also, you can email i.organising@unison.co.uk with your membership number (at the bottom of this email) to be signed up to UNISON's CPD Skills Academy. This gives you 12 months' free access to over 550 fully certified CPD courses.

Update on UNISON survey

Many thanks to members in nurseries, primary schools, special schools and PRUs who completed our survey on the first week of schools being opened more widely. We will be publishing the results of the survey in the next couple of days so please keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

FAQs for you

Remember we have a full set of FAQs on our dedicated page of advice for school support staff. Whenever there are new developments, come here for advice you can trust.

Get the latest news

We post regular updates on our dedicated Facebook page for UNISON members working in schools. Staff from all over the UK share advice, support each other and respond to the latest news, so please do join us there.

If you need help and advice, please [contact your local branch](#). We know that many of you are anxious and worried. Please be assured that nothing is more important to us than your safety, and that of the pupils and families you support. UNISON is involved in meetings with the government about longer term planning for schools. We will keep working to protect you and we will keep you updated in this fast moving situation.

Best wishes,

Jon Richards
UNISON Head of Education