



Dear member,

This email includes:

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Your views in the news

Thanks to everyone who shared their experiences in our survey of members whose schools opened to more children from 1 June. Your responses and the overall results show how much the government's unsafe and rushed deadline of 1 June forced some schools to cut corners. The survey results were reported across the media including the [Huffington Post](#) and [Evening Standard](#).

There are lots of lessons here for the government to learn. The results make clear that they should never neglect to listen to support staff, and now unions, staff and ministers must work together to get many more pupils back safely in September.

Updated FAQs for you

We have added some new FAQs to our dedicated page of advice for school support staff. Scroll down the page to find them. New questions relate to face coverings, teaching assistants, IT technicians and cleaning.

Government U-turn on school meals voucher scheme

In a win for families, the government has agreed to extend the voucher scheme for school meals over the six-week summer holidays, to make sure that no child goes hungry. The campaign was led by the School Food Plan, an alliance of organisations that UNISON is part of. Footballer Marcus Rashford has become a recent champion of the campaign and pushed the government to extend its funding. We are waiting for details of how the scheme is to be administered and will update members accordingly. Existing advice on administering the fund can be found [here](#).

Advice for members in schools

As you know, nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and pupil referral units are now all able to open to an expanded number of pupils.

UNISON is urging members to check risk assessments against the relevant joint union workplace checklist. Risk assessments should be constantly reviewed and updated in light of any changing circumstances nationally or locally. Unions and staff should be consulted on updated risk assessments before any further changes are made to pupil numbers.

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.

Financial help for members

There for You, UNISON's welfare charity, has set up a special fund to help members in immediate financial difficulty due to Coronavirus. We may be able to provide a one-off grant of £250 to help with essential expenses such as food and bills.

Reminder: NJC Pay

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 soon be receiving a consultation pack. 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 l.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.

Summer update

We are expecting the government to shortly announce further details on potential summer programmes for children. More info for members will follow over the coming days.

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.