

Campaign News

Issue 2 / Oct 2010 / www.eis.org.uk



How
the cuts
affect
you

DIARY DATE

**March
& Rally**

**SATURDAY
23 OCTOBER**

Edinburgh



Ronnie Smith
General Secretary



Kay Barnett
EIS President

Big turnout on 23 October is vital

The EIS Why Must our Children Pay? March and Rally in Glasgow was one of the largest civic demonstrations that Scotland has seen in recent years, with 10,000 teachers, support staff, parents, students, pupils and others gathering to send a clear message that cuts to education must stop.

But that protest was not the culmination of our campaign, it was just the beginning. With the election of the new coalition Government at Westminster and with Scottish Government elections just a few months away, we must keep up the pressure on all political parties to reverse the damaging waves of cuts that are causing so much damage to Scottish education.

The next step is a March and Rally in Edinburgh on Saturday 23 October, organised in conjunction with other public sector unions and the STUC's There is a Better Way campaign. Thousands of trade unionists, from across Scotland and all parts of the public sector, will march through the streets of our capital city to send a message that the politicians cannot ignore.

It is vitally important that education and the EIS are well represented at this event, as the next stage in our Why Must our Children Pay? campaign. Local associations across the country are making plans to support members wishing to make their way to Edinburgh to join the March. Please ask your Rep or Branch Secretary about plans in your area and do all that you can to turn out in support of the campaign.

National headquarters is also making arrangements for publicity materials and Why Must our Children Pay banners to be available for Marchers on the day. See your EIS noticeboard or visit the EIS website at www.eis.org.uk for the latest information and updates.

This new Cuts Bulletin gives first hand accounts from real teachers and lecturers of the impact that the cuts are having on our schools, colleges and universities. We owe it to the young people of today and tomorrow to do all that we can to protect Scotland's proud educational tradition. Please do all that you can to support our campaign, and I look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh on the 23rd of October.

True depth of education cuts extremely worrying

When the EIS established the Why Must our Children Pay? campaign, our primary aim was to highlight the impact that damaging funding cuts have on the education of Scotland's children. We wanted to be able to support our campaign with real examples of the cuts to Scottish education, and the damage that these cause in schools, colleges and universities across the country.

As part of this process, the EIS established a campaign website – www.eis.org.uk/campaigns/why_must_our_children_pay.htm - which invited teachers and lecturers to provide examples of cuts within their own school, college or university. The results were simply staggering, as teaching staff from right across the country logged on to the campaign site and provided hundreds of examples of real cuts and their impact on learning and teaching.

This latest Cuts Bulletin provides a selection of recent examples of the feedback provided by real teachers and lecturers the length and breadth of Scotland. It makes alarming reading, and highlights the importance of continuing to build on the early success of our Why Must our Children Pay? campaign in the months ahead.

Reading through the examples in this special Bulletin, it is clear that there are few areas of Scottish education that have gone untouched by the politically-motivated cuts agenda.

We know that teacher numbers are being cut, and that class sizes are increasing. Commitments to maintain teacher numbers in order to lower class sizes and support the implementation of Scotland's new Curriculum for Excellence now seem to have been conveniently forgotten by our nation's politicians.

Support for pupils, particularly some of the most vulnerable, is also being cut which is placing greater strain on class teachers and removing valuable specialist assistance which can help pupils from challenging backgrounds to overcome the obstacles that they face on a daily basis.

The induction scheme is being abused, with some local authorities choosing to employ continuing cycles of probationer teachers year on year without offering permanent posts to post-probationers. This is contrary to the spirit of the induction scheme, and is damaging the employment prospects for new teachers and the educational experience of pupils who are faced with constant changes to the school's teaching complement.

CPD opportunities are being scaled back massively – just when they are needed most to support 'the most radical change to Scottish education in decades' – the Curriculum for Excellence. How are teachers supposed to deliver this radical change as resources are cut, class sizes rise and vital CPD opportunities are removed?

This Cuts Bulletin shows that the EIS Why Must our Children Pay? campaign remains vital to the future health of Scottish education. And this campaign can only succeed with your support. Please continue to use the campaign website to provide the EIS with the valuable examples which help to inform our campaign and our future strategy. Only by working together, at local and national level, can we succeed in winning public support and reversing the damaging cuts which threaten the education of every pupil and student in Scotland.



We have had 6 probationer teachers, instead of filling permanent posts. Children suffer because they keep getting different teachers.

How the cuts affect you

Reports of cuts from across the education sector

An Area Educational Psychologist retired with no replacement and did not apparently count as part of a 20% cut to the service. Another main-grade Educational Psychologist was promoted to Principal when post became vacant, but was not replaced. This has led to a major reorganisation of the service with many staff having to regularly travel longer distances and some having to stay overnight. Fewer main-grade EPs means time allocated to schools and families has had to be stretched even further and development work such as training and research is squeezed even further. Cuts to the Educational Psychologist Service also has an effect on our education system, particularly for the most needy and/or vulnerable pupils.

Two pre-school home visiting teachers retired with no replacement. The areas for the home visiting teachers have become vast and families will receive blocks of shorter periods of time rather than regular visits. The time that can be given to supporting nurseries with these children with ASN has also been compromised.

Cuts to the Art Dept budget mean I can no longer run the courses I normally do for S1 - S6 (including clay, printing, textile work). Pupils are now missing out on a variety of essential learning experiences in Art & Design.

The future is not looking good. We are told that our budget next year will be much less. I honestly do not know how we will cope.

S3 pupils have a restricted course choice. They cannot study 2 languages. This used to be an option. Our council no longer has foreign language assistants. They were a valuable resource.

We are unable to offer the courses we offered a few years ago because of lack of funding.

Pupils have been given less choice of subjects. Courses have been cancelled. In Computing the head teacher cancelled the PC Passport course.

Teaching term will be cut by four weeks i.e. students finish college in the middle of May instead of the middle of June. We are still expected to teach the full curriculum.

Authority is planning the removal of 45 computers from the school. Such action seems stupid considering the equipment is already in school and departments already pay for ink & paper etc.

The school can't afford to pay in-service for temporary staff so either we come in without pay or miss out on essential training and preparation.

Piano tuner's SLC contract has been cut. (Head teacher hasn't been informed.) Our 2 pianos will no longer be tuned, twice a year. This is an ill thought out cut - to replace a piano that has not been maintained will cost thousands, and music dept can't function without maintained equipment! No shows, assemblies, concerts, practical exams - if the piano needs fixed.

CPD budget has been cut drastically - all teaching staff have been asked to carefully consider whether they really need to do the type of CPD that costs money...



Staffing cuts mean that our Depute heads are now class committed most of the week and that our HT is the only person available to provide any cover, including illness cover. One day per week ALL SMT are class committed and there is no one available to deal with any problems that arise in school that day. A few weeks into the new session and we're already "creaking" under the stress of these cuts.

How the cuts affect you

Reports of cuts from across the education sector

Cover for cross-curricular projects and extra-curricular projects have at times been denied. Previously, management was very supportive of these.

Specialist assistants for pupils with ASN have been cut and teachers asked to share classes with other teachers who have gone through a reduction in their contracted hours.

Supply teachers are only brought in if really necessary. Instead, teachers' non-contact times in excess of minimum requirements are being used as far as possible. Consequently, teachers are finding it harder to fulfil all the demands of their job.

Since the start of term, we have lost 1.5 Support Staff in the reorganisation, in spite of the fact that we have more challenging children coming to the school who require support; staff are being disadvantaged as are the children in the class who do not have specific needs. Learning Support has to be managed within the school and as time is very limited, many children have to do without. This has had an impact on the whole school and the remaining clerical staff are seeing an increase in their workload.

Our assigned First Aider is now only with us 12 hours per week, the head teacher is being forced to cover the medical room over lunchtime as the remaining support staff are required to supervise in the playground.

Our Principal Teacher retired in June and as the post is frozen, the HT and DHT have had to pick up her remit. Also staff have had to be part of or in many cases lead Working Parties.

Staff have time on their timetables but this will be used for "library periods" to cover staff illness. Probationers are being used in place of appointing full time permanent posts.

PT Home Economics not replaced after retirement. PT Teaching time not replaced. Department has gone from 2.5 teachers to 1.8

Teachers are now carrying out many of the tasks formerly done by the PT, placing extra burden on teaching and learning as teachers are trying to carry out too many roles at once.

Non specialist teachers being used to supplement teaching. This can be quite demoralising for qualified specialist teachers.

More planned job losses and departments amalgamated with similar backgrounds e.g. Business and Computing, Home Ec with technology etc.

Many teachers are finding it difficult to progress in their jobs into management positions particular if departments are merged and PT roles removed.



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The Educational
Institute of Scotland

**Why
must our
Children
pay?**

**INVEST IN THEIR
EDUCATION**

The whole dynamics of our school have changed with stress levels rising and work loads increasing. Both staff and children are already feeling the effects of the cuts and things can only get worse!



BETTER

March & Rally

SATURDAY

23 OCTOBER

Edinburgh

11.00am: Assemble,
East Market Street,
Edinburgh

11.30am: March off

12.30pm: Rally,
Ross Bandstand

In affiliation with STUC

www.thereisabetterway.org
campaign

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