

AGM CONFIRMS WORKLOAD AS CAMPAIGN PRIORITY

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**WORK
LOAD**
Campaign

The issue of tackling teacher workload, in particular the growing burden of form-filling and red tape, was a key focus at this year's Annual General Meeting.

Decisions taken at the AGM supported the EIS Executive's decision to launch the workload campaign which will continue to develop in the months ahead.

What's being said:

Larry Flanagan, EIS General Secretary – campaign launch

"Scotland's teachers are facing continuing demands to achieve more with less and this has created an increasingly unmanageable workload burden. At a time when teachers are working extremely hard to deliver an under-resourced Curriculum for Excellence, austerity cuts have robbed schools of vital resources to support learning and teaching whilst pointless bureaucracy and new paperwork grows. It's time to act."

Susan Quinn, EIS President (now Ex-President) - AGM address

"It was interesting to note that the head of Education Scotland's team of school inspectors was critical of growing levels of bureaucratic red-tape and paperwork imposed on teachers in the name of CfE. Clearly, this is not what CfE is supposed to be about, and the heavy levels of recording and reporting being demanded in some local authorities are having an impact on the time available for learning and teaching. CfE is designed to be teacher-led and pupil focused, and too much time spent jumping through hoops of red-tape is counter-productive and runs contrary to the ethos of CfE."



HERE'S THE PROMISE



Cabinet Secretary Mike Russell responding on workload to the EIS AGM:

“It is unacceptable that any school, head teacher or local authority should be able to surround the clarity of CfE with a smokescreen of bureaucracy and unnecessary paperwork. That needs to stop and it needs to stop now. CfE is about giving teachers greater scope for professional decision making and ensuring our young people are fit to succeed in whatever destination they move to after school. Teachers must be free to do what they do best and develop their skills to deliver learning at its best. It must not be about constant form filling and supervision.”

“I have taken on board the EIS campaign to tackle workload and today I am happy to announce that I will deliver on that. The Scottish Government will work closely with the EIS and other key players as part of a group to identify the key issues and come up with ways in which we can reduce needless workload and bureaucracy. We won't stand for systems that involve highly detailed and unnecessary red-tape...plans and highly onerous tracking and recording approaches that are sometimes never even looked at by management. That is simply not on, so we will act to tackle the issue of bureaucracy.”

Next Steps...

The EIS urges action – not just words – on workload

Whilst welcoming comments made by the Cabinet Secretary, the EIS Executive is clear that this campaign is just beginning and that actions speak louder than words. We need to see movement at a national level and also at local authority level and even down to school managements.

The EIS Executive has agreed a detailed strategy around the workload campaign for implementation in the new term, building on the advice already issued to schools.

The aim of the campaign is simple - to achieve a real time reduction in workload for members.

It's time to take control of this agenda:

ACT NOW - ACT TOGETHER

For further information on the EIS campaign, visit: www.eis.org.uk/workload

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