

Scotland's largest
and most effective
education trade union

eis

NATIONAL MEMO

27th
OCTOBER
GLASGOW

Assemble: 11.00am
Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow
March: 11.30am
Rally: George Square

  @EISUnion

STRIKE LOOMS AS TEACHERS REJECT 3% PAY INCREASE

By DANIEL SANDERSON
The Times (Scotland) / 19 September 2018

The first national strike by teachers in Scotland since the 1980s has moved a step closer after they emphatically rejected an offer to end a pay dispute as "derisory".

Talks between teachers' unions, councils and the Scottish government broke down after a 3 per cent rise in line with other public sector workers and a pledge to restructure pay scales was rejected.

The EIS, Scotland's largest teaching union, has launched a campaign for a 10 per cent rise for all teachers, which it says is justified in light of years of cuts and a recruitment crisis.

Teachers' pay is set by a tripartite body including the Scottish government, council officials and union negotiators. Councils say years of cuts mean they cannot afford a bigger rise.

However, ministers are desperate to avoid a teachers' strike involving huge disruption for parents, their employers and the economy. The SNP's handling of education, an area it said was its top priority, has come under scrutiny after a series of policy U-turns and evidence of declining results, meaning politicians are keen to avoid strikes.

An EIS spokesman said: "It was made clear by the teachers' side that this was a derisory offer and that it failed to redress the decade of detriment to teachers' pay. Recruitment and retention of all teachers needs to be improved and all should receive a 10 per cent pay rise."

A Scottish government official said: "Teachers' pay is a matter for the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers and negotiations for 2018-19 are continuing."

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Edited extracts of real stories printed in Scottish media during September.

SCOTTISH TEACHING WORKLOAD AMONG WORLD'S HEAVIEST

By ANDREW LEARMONTH
The National / 12 September 2018

SCOTLAND'S teachers work some of the longest hours in the world, according to a new report.

The analysis by the OECD of their 36 member states showed that the average teaching time per year exceeds 800 hours in only seven countries and economies: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Latvia, Mexico, the United States, and Scotland.

EIS general secretary Larry Flanagan warned that the long hours were putting people off becoming teachers. "These international comparisons confirm, once again, that Scotland's teachers work some of the longest hours of any OECD country with a very high percentage of time spent in front of the class," he said.

"Coupled with the country's continuing slide down international comparisons on pay, where Scotland's teachers have endured a real-terms pay cut of at least 24% over the past decade, this highlights the damaging combination of soaring workload and declining pay facing Scotland's teachers."

SCOTTISH TEACHERS 'WORK LONGEST HOURS'

Holyrood Magazine / 11 September 2018

Teachers in Scotland work the longest hours of any in the developed world, according to a new report from international economists OECD.

The report, entitled Education at a Glance, shows that Scottish teachers, on average, are well above the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) average for teaching hours per week for both primary and secondary.

Scotland's largest teaching union has warned that the profession is no longer a "desirable career" thanks to the soaring workload and declining pay.

SCOTTISH TEACHING SALARIES FALL BEHIND INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES OECD REPORTS

By ANDREW DENHOLM
The Herald / 12 September 2018

SALARIES of Scottish teachers have declined in comparison to international colleagues, new figures show.

A major report on education systems around the world found the value of pay for secondary staff has declined by five per cent since 2005.

Figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show average salaries in primary schools around the developed world are £42,000, while teachers in secondary get an average of £45,000.

In Scotland, teachers at the top of the scale in both primary and secondary are paid £36,500.

'IT'S NONSENSICAL FOR A LECTURER TO BE PAID MORE THAN A TEACHER'

An educator who has made the switch from secondary to further education makes the case for equal pay

By JAMES McENANEY
The Times Educational Supplement / 14 September 2018

NEW STUDENTS, new classes, new courses. Maybe a few new colleagues or a whole new school. For some, the (terrifying) start of a new career. Its that time of year again. Now that everyone is back to work, the new year can begin. The routine is much the same every year, but this time there's something else — something big on the agenda: the battle for a 10 per cent pay increase for Scotland's teachers. The EIS teaching union's campaign has been ramping up for months and now, unless there is some major movement on the side of councils and the Scottish government, a national strike is a very real possibility. If the union wins this fight, teachers at the top of the national pay scale will see their salary rise to about 40,000 a year. They will also achieve financial parity with those working in the further education sector, as I have been for the past few years.

VALUE
EDUCATION
VALUE
TEACHERS

www.eis.org.uk/ValueTeachers

Printed and published by The Educational Institute of Scotland, 46 Moray Place, Edinburgh EH3 6BH, September 2018

