

**2026 UNISON Year of
Green Activity**



**Watch this page for further
updates from our
Environmental Officer!**

FAREWELL TO MIKE



We bid farewell to Mike Phillips, who was a long serving school UNISON steward. Mike had been a rep at Underwood West Academy for many years. Everyone at the Cheshire East UNISON Branch thanked Mike for his support over the years and wished him all the very best with his retirement.

**SLEEP IN ALLOWANCE BACKPAY THANKS
TO A DETERMINED UNISON REP!**

**Concerned about job insecurity,
inequality, pay and conditions,
privatisation, pensions,
harassment or safety issues?**

**BECOME A
UNISON
STEWARD**

An eagle eyed local rep discovered there was a discrepancy in the sleep in allowances being paid in a workplace. His persistence to get to the bottom of the matter resulted in a number of employees receiving the pay uplift they had been missing out on and a hefty amount of backpay. Well done Dave on all your hard work!

UPDATE ON THE 2026 AND 2027 PAY CLAIMS

The 2026 pay award will be in paid in the October pay slips and backdated to April 2026 with a 3.3% increase across all grades.



Consultations have just started in preparation for the 2027 pay claim. Please look out for any communications regarding the pay awards, particularly when asked to vote in a ballot. We need all members to respond and vote to enable a successful campaign to achieve better pay for all our school and council members.

When should you contact your union?

Please remember UNISON are there for all its members. Whether you have a general employment query, need support or advice or are struggling to resolve a problem - please do get in touch. It is often far quicker and can lead to a better resolution to try to resolve a matter informally than instigating the formal route. Please contact us at the earliest possible stage if you are going through a restructure or in formal procedures including Absence Management, Capability, Grievance or Disciplinary. Too often members are not involving us until stage 2 and 3 of the process. We are there to support and advise YOU throughout the whole process.



MEMBERSHIP DETAILS - UPDATE YOUR EMAIL CONTACT!

We are asking all members to please check that their membership details are up to date. This includes your email contact, telephone number, home address and current role. Please be aware, that going forward, all ballots will be conducted online rather than postal and to do this, we must use a personal email. This can be done online via My UNISON <https://my.unison.org.uk/home/> or by contacting the branch on the details below.



SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF NEGOTIATING BODY (SSSNB)

The SSSNB became legislation as part of the Employment Rights Act 2025 and launches in December 2026. With its first task the 2027 pay negotiations for all support staff nationally in state, faith, single and multi academy trusts, the SSSNB will give support staff the long overdue recognition they deserve and their own national negotiating body. Watch this space for more updates on the work of the SSSNB!



Stars in our Schools

A annual celebration of school support staff, this year on the 27th November 2026. It takes a whole team to make a school a safe and happy place for all children. School support staff help children learn, keep them safe and happy and make sure schools run smoothly. They are the caterers, admin staff, finance officers, teaching assistants, librarians, ICT technicians and many more roles. Celebrate the stars in your school!