

Schools are in crisis---Please help us.

Dear Sarah Jones MP,

Our schools are in crisis, and we are asking you to write to the Secretary of State, Gillian Keegan, on our behalf.

We were disappointed that education did not get a mention in the Prime Minister's five new year pledges.

There is a crisis in recruitment and retention of teachers and support staff.

The government is consistently missing its targets for teacher recruitment, and this means schools are struggling to appoint school leaders and specialist teachers.

One third of teachers leave the job within five years of starting.

Figures from a recent survey of London headteachers show that:

- 46% of schools are using unqualified staff to teach lessons.
- 54% have cut the number of support staff.
- 56% of heads say that cuts are having a negative impact on children.
- 50% are running food banks to support families.

Cuts to school funding mean that our children are losing out on vital support:

- 54% of schools have cut spending on curriculum support.
- 36% have reduced support for SEND children.
- 75% have reduced spending on equipment and resources.

We believe that school leaders, teachers and support staff deserve better.

School staff deserve a **fully funded** pay rise in line with inflation to make up for years of decline in the value of our pay.

But we also deserve for our schools to be properly funded so we can deliver the education our children, the children of your constituents, deserve.

Please will you write to Gillian Keegan on our behalf and ask her to negotiate with our unions to avoid further strike action, and to invest in our schools to avert a deepening crisis for our schools.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our concerns.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,