

**IMMEDIATE**  
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## **TEACHERS READY FOR ACTION ON PENSIONS**

An NASUWT snapshot opinion survey on pensions has revealed overwhelming support for action on the Government's proposed changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

In just 72 hours, almost 7,500 teachers responded to the online poll.

A massive 96% of primary and secondary teachers of all ages across England and Wales indicated support for a campaign to safeguard teachers' pensions by:

- writing to their MPs (69%);
- writing to prospective parliamentary candidates (48%);
- participating in an e-mail campaign to MPs (82%);
- attending a regional weekend protest rally (30%);
- attending a national weekend protest rally in London (15%);
- taking a day of nationally organised strike action (58%).

**Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"The rapid and high level of response indicates the importance of this issue to teachers.

"The results show that teachers of all ages are equally concerned, demonstrating that the widely held view that young teachers are indifferent to the proposed changes is misguided.

"It is now evident that there is a real danger that dismay and disgruntlement over the pension proposals will overshadow the significant improvements this Government has made to teachers' working conditions.

"In recent years discussions between the Government, NASUWT and other social partners have resolved jointly many difficult issues. It is regrettable that on a matter as important as this the Government is acting unilaterally with unfortunate consequences.

"A significant majority of teachers are now indicating a willingness to take strike action over pensions. Clearly the time has come for the Government to pause, reflect and rethink its strategy.

"I hope it will choose to work with social partners to find a way forward."