

Kevin Courtney's, NUT Deputy General Secretary, statement sent via Face Book  
With Reply by Peter Smith, NTA Secretary

**From:** Amy Sharp [<mailto:dorothygale17@yahoo.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 07 May 2016 09:58

**To:** probett <[probett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:probett@hotmail.co.uk)>

**Cc:** Peter Smith <[petersmith@newhamteachers.org.uk](mailto:petersmith@newhamteachers.org.uk)>; Committee NTA <[committee@newhamteachers.org.uk](mailto:committee@newhamteachers.org.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Members Meeting 12th May 2016

Statement from Kevin Courtney in Facebook: This is my view, please tell me what you think.

#### OUR DISPUTE IS NOT OVER

This retreat by Nicky Morgan does not mean our dispute is over. There are still huge threats to teacher pay and conditions and therefore to student learning conditions.

Our trade dispute is (and always has been) about the threat to terms and conditions that comes from funding cuts, academisation and the de-regulation within STPCD itself.

Our demands are for:

- a return to national negotiations
- specific improvements in terms and conditions,
- guarantees that these apply to all state funded schools and
- for the funding to ensure all of this.

#### FUNDING:

All our schools are facing significant cuts. 8% threatened across next few years overall. George Osborne is freezing schools money whilst increasing by 5% taxes on the school pay bill.

These cuts are impacting on all schools - perhaps even more on academies.

They are hitting teachers in 6 form colleges and early years settings even harder because they had bigger cuts under the coalition.

#### STPCD:

The STRB has recently reported to Nicky Morgan - we don't know what they've said - but we know that she wanted them to say that teachers can now be moved down the pay spine, for more performance pay. Her reaction to their report will appear very soon.

#### ACADEMISATION:

Thousands of schools are still facing academisation - many 'forced', some 'voluntary', all the schools in local authorities where the Government says a 'tipping point' has been reached or where it says 'standards' aren't high enough.

All with no evidence that schools improve faster when they are academies! And in particular the Government hasn't been able to show us any evidence that breaking up pay and conditions leads to higher standards.

#### TEACHER WORKING CONDITIONS = STUDENT LEARNING CONDITIONS

We need guarantees for the teachers in all those schools and improvements for teachers in all schools. These teacher conditions are after all our students learning conditions. Class size increases are bad for teachers AND students. Closing courses and making teachers redundant is bad for them and means students have less choice.

Our campaign to protect teachers and therefore education must continue.

6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Nick Morgan Climb Down on forcing all Schools to become Academies.  
Memebers still to be balloted for strike to protect NATIONAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

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PRESS THE ADVANTAGE:

This Government retreat shows that Govt policy is in tatters. We will write to Morgan on Monday demanding genuine consultation, negotiation and a change of direction.

Our strike ballot is still on.

Nicky Morgan can avoid it - but we haven't seen evidence yet that she is truly listening. We have set out in our dispute letter what we think she needs to do.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNING TOO:

She clearly intends to use this years chaotic KS2 sats results to label many schools as coasting - then Regional Schools Commissioners will try to force those schools to become academies in MATs. She wont consult parents or staff.

We want her to acknowledge that is wrong.

We must press on evidence, on the control MATs have of schools, on removal of the requirement for elected parent governors, on need for local democratic oversight and support. What do you think?  
Sent from my iPhone

Hi Kevin,

Thanks to Amy Sharp, NTA President, for I am not involved in Facebook. My view "What do you think? " as the NTA Divisional Secretary is that provided the ballot is based on a legal trade dispute it should go ahead. The government climb down will make it that more difficult to get a YES vote as many members will not understand the technically of a legal trade dispute. They will have assumed the reason for the calling the strike is forced academisation on all schools and that will not happen now; even though many schools will still be forced to become academies and even worse be handed over to a private chain.

As I said to a recent meeting with three headteachers, wishing to set up an MAT, with the other trade unions present, they are responding to a government that is using education to deliver a political agenda and not an educational agenda. At the same time the government cuts to local authorities have gradually reduced the support from local authorities to its maintained schools. They take the road of a MAT to avoid being involved with a private change but must realise that in so doing they change the status of their schools from a local authority maintained school to a government maintained school [academy is a name not a status]. The danger of this is that the Secretary of State for Education has the power to hand over the latter to private chains at his/her discretion and he/she cannot do with local authority maintained schools nor co-operative trust schools; currently once a school becomes a government maintained school its status cannot be changed.

Thus my overall view is that as the government is intent on politicising education to help deliver its austerity program and it needs to be fought through appropriate legal strike action, encouraging other trade unions in the education field to join in, and helping to build the necessary unity to oppose the government's austerity policy with a view to electing the next government which will reverse that austerity economic program. Most importantly of all we have to create the appropriate conditions that will lead to the members understanding this and that requires a lot of work which you yourself have demonstrated your preparedness to carry out.

Regards  
Peter

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