

The Wakey Worker

STITCHED UP THE EDITION #1

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT UNISON

READING, WRITING, RAMPAGING!



Violence in Schools HITS all time high

The Results are In(cluded)

Members will have seen an anonymous survey sent out by UNISON to investigate the violence school staff are facing in the workplace. The results of this survey are included within this issue of The Wakey Worker and show that a horrific percentage of you are being subjected to physical violence and verbal assaults whilst undertaking your work.

The headlines of this are that 95% of you have experienced violence in the workplace within the last 12 months and 91.2% of you that have raised these incidents this with your manager were not happy with the response.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

An Unsupportive System

It is clear that, not only is violence in the workplace endemic to our schools, but that the support system offered to you is not fit for purpose. The victims of these assaults are saying that they are not only unaware of how to report incidents, due to a complicated and antiquated reporting system, but that...

Wakefield UNISON Convenor Team



Sam Greenwood
Branch Secretary



Dave Evans
Branch Co-Chairperson



Adam Temple
Communications &
Environmental Officer

...when these incidents are reported, there is very little faith in management to act on these issues in either a timely or suitable manner, nor do you feel as though management are doing enough to prevent these attacks.

YOU DESERVE BETTER!

Knowledge is Power

UNISON is committed to keeping you safe at work, and to supporting you, when you need it. UNISON's Health and Safety Committee will be sending out a follow up survey, that we urge you to complete, to help map out where the problem hotspots lie and to determine how best to support you, as members. If you didn't receive the first survey, or don't get the second, call 01924 305360 to check your email is up to date.

Wakefield District UNISON urges anyone who has been a victim of this type of...

...behaviour to not only formally report it to your managers (UNISON will help with this if you are unsure how to do it), but to get in contact with your UNISON representatives so that they can give you the help and support that your managers are simply not providing.

If you have any suggestions as to how UNISON can best support you, please get in touch to let the branch know what matters to you, or, consider becoming more active within your workplace and joining the branch as a steward to help educate the people who should be supporting you at work.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

**VIOLENCE HAS NO PLACE
IN OUR SCHOOLS!**

HELP UNISON HELP YOU

UNISON is **YOU** and our strength is in numbers. If you have any colleagues that aren't a member of **UNISON** yet, please encourage them to join with the QR code, not only for their protection in the workplace, but to increase **YOUR** collective bargaining powers. If you fancy helping your colleagues more; by becoming a steward or workplace contact, please get in touch with us at the branch.

Join here ----->
Call us: 01924305360





Ken's Corner

Member: Ken, we don't have a UNISON rep in our workplace and none of us are receiving emails or correspondence from you. What do we do?

Ken: Thanks for reaching out to us. If you're not receiving emails, you'll need to give UNISON a call on 01924 305360 and make sure your details are up to date and that they have permission to send you things via email.

As for the lack of a rep in the workplace, UNISON will train and support anyone who wishes to become a steward or a workplace contact, if you want more information on this it is best to call or email the UNISON branch and, if you request a visit, I'm sure that they will be more than happy to arrange it, plus they may well bring some freebies with them.

If **you** have any questions for Ken's Corner about workplace issues, please email contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk

Member: Dear Ken, earlier this month, one of the students in my class started acting up and ended up hitting and kicking me, i have got some bruises but am otherwise okay. How do i report this? Or am I overreacting?

Ken: I'm really sorry to hear that you experienced that at work. You are absolutely NOT overreacting, any and all violent incidents need reporting, both verbal assaults and physical violence. Firstly, you need to fill in an incident report form, this will either be a paper form or on CPOMS or MyPeople depending on where you work. You then need to get in contact with your union so that they can help and support you going forward.

Member: Hi Ken, I'm a teaching assistant in a Local Authority school. My head teacher has been pressuring me and my colleagues to come into work 15 minutes early and leave 15 minutes late but has said that we wont get paid anything extra for this, can they do this?

Ken: No, if this increases your weekly working hours beyond your contracted hours, you should be paid for these. An employer should not request that you work for free and should not be pressuring you into it. You should be paid for ALL the time that you are in work. I am aware that this is a widespread problem and advise you to get in contact with your union.

UNISON

Wakefield District

- **Spitting**
- **Punching**
- **Kicking**
- **Biting**
- **Swearing**
- **Pushing**
- **Hair Pulling**
- **Nipping**
- **Scratching**

**WORKPLACE
VIOLENCE**

**NONE of
these are
acceptable in
the workplace!
let alone a school!**

**UNISON are here to
support YOU**

Get in touch with us:

Wakefield UNISON: 01924 305360

contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk



Join UNISON today