

## NEU National Executive Committee Elections 2021-23

**District 6: Bedford, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, East Northants, Ipswich and South Suffolk, Luton, Norfolk, North East Suffolk, North Northants, Northampton, Peterborough, South West Northants, West Suffolk.**

**Nominate Pat Markey**

**for the NEU National Executive**

**January 2021**



I am writing to ask you to consider nominating me to be one of your National Executive members in the forthcoming NEU National Executive election. I have been a teacher in Northampton and across the county for 25 years and am currently a Supply Teacher. I have been a school NEU Rep, Secretary of Northampton District for many years, and currently I am Joint Secretary of Northants Branch NEU. I attend NEU Conference regularly and have represented the NEU on Northampton Trades Union Council.

In the ongoing pandemic, our members are facing the major challenge of providing education and support to our pupils and their communities, whilst trying to ensure our schools are as safe as they can be, and where the workload implications are creating a real headache. The NEU's recent Section 44 guidance was a real and necessary galvanising step for our members and needed following up with effective strategies to keep schools and communities safe. The significant increase in membership in January 2021, many of whom are support staff, shows that our members will respond positively when the national leadership provides a robust strategy to address not just Covid but the many other issues we face in schools.

If elected to the National Executive, I would put the case for policies to support members to address excessive workload which leads many members to despair and out of the profession. The chronic underfunding of schools is a disgraceful state of affairs where our members regularly have to dip into our own pockets to pay for the basics for the children, and where overcrowded classrooms disadvantage poorer children, as well as contributing to excessive workload.

There is a bullying culture in too many of our schools. Our members need support to establish NEU Reps and Committees in schools, linked up across MATs where possible, and to develop a union culture that enables us to carry out our jobs without the constant fear that exists in too many workplaces.

Support staff should not be the poor relation in the NEU. TAs, bursars, site staff, technicians, lunchtime supervisors, and all workers in school, strengthen our union. We should campaign for better pay and conditions for all. As a supply teacher, I am fully aware of the plight of low pay and precarious work, and will campaign for the re-establishment of local supply pools and pay to scale.

Though the last 12 months have been incredibly challenging, I have been inspired by the courage of our members, from the individuals and school union groups who used Section 44 protection, to the members at Sywell Primary School who I have had the pleasure in supporting throughout their campaign against academisation and who are due to take strike action in January.

I believe that the Executive should be accountable to members and I am fully committed to the values of a democratic, lay led union that represents all our members. I would welcome the opportunity to attend your district meeting to discuss my nomination.

In solidarity

Pat Markey