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Fair Play for Children in Wales

NUT pressure wins assurances from WAG but funding gap widens

"I want to make sure that we spend the right amount of money on education, so I am making a commitment in this manifesto to spend 1 per cent above the block grant every year until we reach a situation where we have parity of funding per head of pupils in England."

Carwyn Jones, First Minister for Wales

"I want to see more funding going to schools." Leighton Andrews, Education Minister

The NUT Cymru campaign demanding Fair Play for Children in Wales has highlighted the indefensible disparity in funding provision between Wales and England.

This campaign has already made a significant impact, with the new First Minister Carwyn Jones and the Education Minister Leighton Andrews pledging to increase school funding to achieve parity with the amount spent in England.

The NUT welcomes this news. However, the gap in per pupil funding between England and Wales has widened to £527, according to January 2010 figures. If the First Minister is to deliver on his pledge there needs to be a greater increase in spending than the promised 1 per cent above the block grant. The NUT calls upon Carwyn Jones and his Ministers to recognise that fact and put in place immediate, realistic proposals to make sure it happens.

"The significant funding difficulties require urgent action if Wales is to achieve parity in its education provision with that enjoyed elsewhere. NUT Cymru will continue to campaign for fair funding. The First Minister's pledge is not enough as the gap is too great and continues to widen. The children of Wales need more money to be delivered to the front line of education now. Realistic proposals and real action are needed before it is too late."

Christine Blower,
General Secretary of the
National Union of Teachers



Go to www.teachers.org.uk/walesfunding to sign our petition.

STOP PRESS: January 2010 figures show the funding gap has widened from £496 to £527 – an alarming 6.25 per cent increase.

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