

Pupil Referral Units: Nobody Does It Better



Supporting teachers and pupils in pupil referral units

We believe that all children and young people have a right to high quality education whatever their needs. Some children and young people need more individual support than others. Fundamental to this principle is the right of teachers to teach and the right of children and young people to learn.

The NUT is campaigning to protect and promote pupil referral units and the services they provide.

The NUT is also campaigning for the expertise of teachers in pupil referral units to be recognised and valued. PRUs need stable funding agreements to ensure local schools can use them flexibly when pupils need support and to protect outreach partnerships.

PRU teachers work with a range of children and young people including:

- pupils who have been excluded from school
- those at risk of exclusion
- teenage parents
- school phobic children
- pupils accessing medical treatment.

Lack of clarity about their role has always been a challenge for PRUs.

Pupil referral units are under-valued: they are the last chance for children and young people who need intensive personalised support and a multi agency approach.

Teachers in pupil referral units start from the individual needs of the child, and recognise pupils' social and emotional development is at the heart of effective learning.

The NUT has over 1,000 members in PRUs in England and Wales.

Ofsted data reveals that PRUs are very effective, although this is not publicised. Between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011:

- 65% of PRUs were judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding'
- 52% of mainstream secondary schools were judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding'.

Ofsted is the Government's chosen measure of school 'success' but there are many other indicators, particularly for PRUs.

PRUs can fulfil their remit best in collaboration with mainstream schools and in partnership with external agencies. The outreach provided by PRUs is valued by teachers in mainstream schools.

For this reason, many PRU teachers are sceptical about academy status and are concerned that changes to the way PRUs are funded will threaten inclusive practice and provision for vulnerable pupils.

If you are an NUT member and your service is being restructured, or if you have other concerns, contact your local NUT association, whose details can be found at www.teachers.org.uk/contactus

NUT responses to government consultations about PRUs and other policies and resources are posted at <http://www.teachers.org.uk/taxonomy/term/1853>

Join the NUT today

The NUT is the largest and most effective teachers' union.
The NUT runs events to enable PRU teachers to meet and network at a national level.

Please phone the joining hotlines:

0845 300 1669/020 7380 6369

or join online at **www.teachers.org.uk**

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