

NEU National Officer Elections

Nominate Phil Clarke for NEU Vice President

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to ask that you nominate Phil Clarke from your District in the upcoming Vice-President election of the National Education Union.



Phil is standing because he is absolutely committed to fighting for the best for members and our students. Phil firmly believes that if we are to improve our members' pay and working conditions as well as make progress against the scourges of child poverty, a narrowing curriculum, and cuts, we must both organise our members to stand up collectively as professionals and build alliances with parents and communities. Crucially we also believe he has shown this can be done in practice and achieve results.

He is an experienced serving teacher and have built the strength of the union in our local area, allowing us to **win significant victories for members.**

Campaigns he has been central to have resulted in thousands of teachers winning a pay increase, SEND services being kept open and many schools, including his own, staying as part of our local authority family.

As a member of the NEU national executive, he has been elected chair of the national Bargaining and Negotiation committee. This committee covers key issues for our members including pay and workload and gives him experience of key national roles such as taking part in pay negotiations. He is currently running national project looking at the gender pay gap in schools, targeting the lack of TLRs and pay progression issues among our primary members. He also chairs the supply members organising forum, working with members who face some of the biggest challenges to organising in the union.

It is his experience of winning for members we would like to see him take into the position of Vice-President. We know he will support others, particularly in rural conservative voting areas like ours, in building branches and networks of reps that can win for members.

His District and Branch secretary roles mean he has a huge amount of experience supporting teacher and support staff members both individually and collectively. We know how vital our local officers are in making sure we have a strong union presence in schools that can support and grow networks of reps. Working with branch and district officers to make sure they are supported with this work, which is the bedrock of the union, is a high priority for him.

Our equalities work is some of the best in movement but our LGBT, Black, disabled and women members face ever increasing hostility from the normalisation of right-wing political discourse and Phil recognises we must build on this work to implement both practical measures to ensure representation and instil solidarity across the membership.

We have seen his vision for the union is one where strength at workplace level means strength at national level. The NEU's impact during the pandemic showed us how we can build this strength by combining strong leadership from the top with an organising approach at the base. This is the work he wants to pick up and build on as Vice-President.

We believe he has the skills, commitment and experience of delivering for members that we hope you would like to see in a Vice-President. Empowering our members to stand up for themselves and our students is what our union is all about and this is what we know he will make central to his work as union Vice-President.

In solidarity,

Lewes, Eastbourne and Wealden District Committee Members

About Phil

Computer Science Teacher in a comprehensive school for over 15 years

Lewes, Eastbourne and Wealden NUT Association/NEU District secretary for over 13 years and East Sussex Joint Branch Secretary.

Highly experienced caseworker.

NUT and then NEU national Executive member since 2014.

Chair of National Bargaining and Negotiations Committee.

Chair of the Supply teacher organising forum, many time conference delegate, regional council delegate

For many years secretary of his local Trade Union Council and organiser of his local anti-cuts campaign.

Significant media experience including in newspapers, radio, local and national TV.

Winning for members

Organised members to take industrial action that overturned a Tory council and local academies failing to implement the full teachers' pay rise across East Sussex winning a pay rise for thousands of members.

Built campaigns alongside parents that have fought off a significant number of academy conversions in East Sussex. Prevented the closure of the LEA Music Service and our English as an Additional Language service through joint union and community campaigns.

Won recognition through industrial action across academy trusts who had been refusing to sign agreements for many years and gained recognition in local independent schools.

Supported very large numbers of Primary reps in submitting section 44 letters in January against reckless school opening.

Run and won many disputes over cuts, member redundancies, mock OFSTEDs and unreasonable workload. Most recently securing a victory in a rural secondary school at the end of last term that meant Dance and Drama remained on the curriculum and members kept their jobs.

Priorities as Vice-President

Smash the pay freeze and win on workload. I commit to working with branches to build our levels of organisation in schools alongside a clear national campaign to win on these key issues.

A relentless focus on the quality of life and education for our students. Combatting child poverty, resisting the exam factory model and defending SEND provision must be central to our work.

Continue to make the case against and fight to stop privatisation and fragmentation of our education system. No area cannot be organised. Support for members, reps and branches working in difficult geographical areas and with hostile employers.

Spreading our international work further into the membership engaging a wider layer and in classrooms through teaching materials.

Using the expertise our members have across the union to help make the NEU the go to place for progressive pedagogy and CPD.

Build our organisation among support staff and look to work with our sister unions to create a united front for our most underpaid members. Continue to press the case for professional unity for all education workers.