

Request for executive nomination 2021-2023

Sheena Wheatley

District 3: City of Derby, City of Leicester, East Riding, Hull, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Northern Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Rutland & Southern Derbyshire.



Dear colleague,

I am writing to ask if your District would consider nominating me as a candidate for election to the NEU executive for District 3.

I am proud to have served on the NEU executive for the last 2 years, ~~we may not have got everything right.~~ I am proud of our record in helping to shape the kind of union the NEU is going to be. We may not have got everything right but ~~but~~ the increase in members both teaching and support staff, new reps and the strength of and engagement with the union, is at least in part because of the strategy pursued by the executive guided by members.

The union's response to the COVID crisis

The last year has been more than challenging for everyone, not least for students and school staff. I believe the NEU at national and local level has played a pivotal role in this crisis, and I have been active in shaping and helping to lead the union's response.

I have worked with members and reps to fight for the maximum safety in schools and colleges and to empower members to collectivise, negotiate and act with branch and district support.

I have supported members and reps to successfully challenge increased workload for both teachers and support staff.

I have played a key role in organising meetings and communication with members. This helped to build confidence and alongside the enormous national NEU meeting at the start of January, helped to force a government U turn.

I have engaged with the media to raise our arguments nationally on BBC 5 Live and C4 News and locally via radio and newspaper outlets.

Organising at the base of the union

I firmly believe that school level organising, with reps and activists taking charge of shaping the union, is the key to making our union even more effective. We have taken great strides forward in the last year in very challenging circumstances with thousands of new members and new reps who have done brilliant work.

The relationships and feedback I have developed with activists informs and shapes my work locally and on the executive.

~~I hope~~ I have played a positive role in encouraging and leading locally in and across the district, and through my role on the NEU executive.

There is much more to do... fighting for Nursery and Special Schools

We must fight to stop the government's reckless policy to keep nursery provision and special schools fully open. I have supported colleagues in nurseries and special schools as they have organised in recent weeks and will continue to fight unsafe practice.

Supporting our SEND pupils

[Our SEND pupils deserve better and we need to continue to fight for the funding needed.](#)

Supporting supply colleagues

For many of our supply colleagues this has been a very difficult period. I have been part of the regional team supporting supply teachers and looking at effective ways to end the agency rip off.

Workload/Monitoring

Workload continues to be an issue that is adding to anxiety and stress. We have had some successes locally on these issues but need a wider response to protect members from excessive workload.

Education in the lockdown

Lockdown is hugely stressful for students, their parents and our members. It is vital that we as a union engage with what our students, their families and our members deserve and that we work to support them where the government has failed.

I continue to campaign on wider issues such as anti-racism and the Black Lives Matter Movement, and Climate Crisis, but also believe we need to take up issues such as free school meals provision and the provision of laptops and access to broadband. [We are the biggest organization holding the government effectively to account on all these issues and we need to continue to hold their feet to the fire to get a better deal for all our students as well as our members.](#)

No return to the exam factory

We need to campaign to ensure that when we return fully to school it is to a different kind of education and not the regime of SATS, GCSE and A Level which has turned too many schools into soulless exam factories. We want a curriculum that is fit for purpose, fit for our young people.

In solidarity,

Sheena

I am happy to speak at district meetings and answer members' questions. I welcome your support and hope to receive your nomination.

About me

- Committed to equalities.
- Joint District/Branch Secretary
- Have led strike action on local issues as well as national.
- Experienced negotiator with the LA, local academies and chains.

| ○ Experienced in supporting members and reps in schools, with casework and negotiations.

