

“SUPPORT STAFF NEWS” – 1/2011 – JANUARY 19TH 2011

Schools Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB) - England

The Government have announced the scrapping of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB).

The Government had previously conducted a review of the future policy direction for determining school support staff pay and conditions, including the role of the SSSNB, and “concluded that the SSSNB does not fit well with the Government’s priorities for greater deregulation of the pay and conditions arrangements for the school workforce.”

The education Unions subsequently met with the Secretary of State to seek a review of the decision, but in a follow-up letter of 15 December 2010, Mr. Gove confirmed his decision to abolish the SSSNB. Whilst he has agreed to encourage joint LEA/union work on job evaluation and job role profiles, Mr Gove was also keen to stress that schools should continue to have “the freedom to organise staff and resources in a way that reflects local priorities and needs.”

The unions are currently reviewing their position. ATL had previously expressed our anger over the government's decision to abolish the SSSNB. ATL deputy general secretary Martin Johnson said: “The vital role support staff undertake in schools continues to be undervalued and the SSSNB had begun to address the serious issues of low pay, term-time only employment and career development.

“Support staff make an invaluable contribution to pupil learning, in particular helping pupils with special educational needs, and raising literacy and numeracy standards. Teachers and parents recognise this — clearly Michael Gove does not.”

Supporting Yourself – 2011

The remaining 2011 dates for *Supporting Yourself* – the training day specifically tailored for school support staff – are as follows:

February 12th (Birmingham)

May 21st (London)

During the course of the day, members will take part in sessions on “Your Rights at Work” and “Managing Challenging Behaviour”, as well as having the

opportunity of discussing workplace problems and issues with ATL Officials and fellow support staff workers.

Attendance at *Supporting Yourself* is free to ATL members, and you can apply to attend by going to the "[Training and Events](#)" section of the ATL web-site.

Support Staff Members Advisory Group (SSMAG)

If you wish to receive a copy of the minutes of the SSMAG meeting of November 20th please contact abartosz@atl.org.uk. The Group will next meet on Saturday 12th March.

NJC Car Allowance Rates

The Local government Employers (LGE) have announced an indefinite freeze on car mileage rates at the level agreed as of April 1st 2010 "until such time as an alternative method of recompense" has been agreed: Click [here](#) for more details.

NJC Car Allowances 2010 / 11 - Change To VAT

VAT increased from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent with effect from 4 January 2011. Please click [here](#) to view the amended rates of VAT per mile in the petrol element that now apply.