

SCHOOL & ACADEMY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

TRAVELLING ABROAD

Last year, NJC advice to Local Government and School employers was that because only essential travel was permitted staff who travelled abroad did so fully cognisant of the quarantine requirements on re-entering the UK and therefore it was not unreasonable for employers to expect those employees to use additional leave (paid or unpaid) to cover the quarantine period. GMB is aware that some Head Teachers have been asking staff of their intention to travel abroad during the closure period and whilst this is certainly not the norm for schools to be aware of staff's personal plans outside of school terms, travel does have the potential to impact on the ability of school staff to physically return to work in school at the start of the school term. Therefore, managers should have open conversations with staff about the potential impact of this, and how it can be best managed locally, if staff are considering travelling outside England whilst these restrictions are in force.

VENTILATION

GMB, along with other Trade Unions, is campaigning for improved ventilation in school buildings. It is now well accepted that good ventilation can reduce airborne risks and SAGE has recommended financial support to enable investment in ventilation and air cleaning technologies. GMB is campaigning hard to persuade Government to provide further financial support for this purpose but in the meantime would like to see schools invest in CO2 monitors and, where necessary, air filtration devices in time for the new term. The HSE recognises that CO2 monitors can help identify poorly ventilated areas and advises that classrooms are well suited to this type of monitoring. GMB has written to all Head Teachers about this issue. GMB London has prepared a template letter for members to send either individually or collectively asking their Head Teachers to buy CO2 monitors which can be accessed **here**.

JOB RE- EVALUATION

Many members have taken on extra responsibilities and duties throughout the past year. If these are now a regular feature of the role and you feel you are acting at a level above that in your description you may wish to ask for a job re-evaluation. This is a Q & A document prepared by GMB London that may help you with this.



Q A April 21.docx

CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE (CEV) & CLINICALLY VULNERABLE (CV)

The current advice from the NJC is that CEV employees should be offered individual risk assessments and their requests to continue working from home should be properly considered and granted unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Employers should update risk assessments for CV staff and should ensure all measures are taken to minimise the risk of transmission.

NJC PAY AWARD 2021/22

GMB London recognises how hard members have had to work throughout the past academic year. GMB members have kept schools open, taken on extra responsibilities and duties and yet the initial pay offer was a 1.5% increase. This is woefully inadequate – not only is it a pay cut in real terms as it is less than the rate of RPI, but it does also not reflect or acknowledge how essential school support staff are. GMB is still waiting for the Employer to come forward with a new offer and we will let you know as soon as this happens. To make sure you can **have your say on your pay** when we conduct the consultative ballot, please make sure your contact details are up to date. Changes can be sent to London.Membership@gmb.org.uk.

