



Craig Whittaker MP

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Cuts to school funding

Thank you for contacting me about education policy.

Neither the interests of teachers, nor of children, are advanced by industrial action. By encouraging its members to strike, the NUT is playing politics with our children's futures.

The core schools budget is being protected and is at its highest ever level. The new national funding formula will bring a fairer balance to how funding is distributed across our school system and will end the historic postcode lottery. Excellent educational attainment should not be based on where a child lives, and I welcome the Department for Education's commitment to improving all young people's life chances, regardless of their background or circumstances.

In 2010, one in three young people left primary school unable to read, write and add up properly, while the number of children studying core academic subjects had halved. Britain's education standards had remained static while other countries have moved ahead. That is why it is so vital to build and extend on the reforms already made.]

I recognise that it is not the case that every academy performs better than every local-authority school. However, the academy system makes it easier to put in place better teaching, leadership, curriculums and accountability, which drives up standards. I am encouraged that 1.8 million more children are now in good or outstanding schools than in 2010 and last year's GCSE results show that secondary converter academies are performing above the national average when it comes to achieving five or more good GCSEs.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP