



5 May 2020

Support staff unions' statement: Speculation over increasing pupil numbers in schools (England)

Over the last few days there has been further speculation that the government is considering increasing the number of pupils in schools in June.

UNISON, GMB and Unite, the recognised unions for school support staff, have been supporting their members who have been continuing to work in schools throughout this time. The unions have also been taking feedback from school staff on the government's reported plan to increase pupil numbers. This has shown very high levels of concern and worry from staff and parents about a premature return to school before it has been proven safe to do so.

The three unions have already set out [the conditions they believe need to be met](#) before schools can safely be reopened. At this time we do not believe that the government has met these conditions.

UNISON, GMB and Unite are therefore seeking urgent talks with government. We have also called on the TUC to co-ordinate a joint position to protect staff and pupils with the other teacher and heads' unions.

In the meantime, please keep a regular eye on our respective websites for up to date information.

We, like all, want to see pupils back in schools as soon as possible, but this should only happen when it is proven safe to do so and parents are reassured to send their children into school.