

Teachers' Unions NUT and NASUWT echo Randstad Education's calls for qualified teachers in schools. "End the abuse of teaching assistants," demands Randstad UK's Patrick Maloney. "They are not trained to teach and many parents are unaware of this disgrace"

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Randstad Education's UK managing director Patrick Maloney's campaign to cut spending on teaching assistants – which has more than doubled in less than 10 years to £2.2bn a year, making up a quarter of the primary school workforce according to the Audit Commission – received a boost today from the teaching Unions. The NASUWT general secretary Chris Keates called the misuse of staff without qualified teacher status 'an abuse' and 'flouting the law', citing the example of a teaching assistant employed to teach a class for three years despite being unqualified.

Also backing Mr Maloney's campaign was the NUT's Jerry Glazier who called the use of unqualified teaching assistants to take classes 'unacceptable'.

Patrick Maloney explains Randstad Education's position: "Children deserve to have fully qualified supply teachers on hand, checked and vetted, ready to provide temporary cover when needed. This is cost-effective and efficient. But in a misguided attempt to cut back on supply teachers many schools have decided to employ an army of unqualified teaching assistants sitting on the fixed cost payroll, leading to predictable inefficiencies and obvious damage to our children's education.

"This is economic madness", added Mr Maloney, "and I welcome the NASUWT and NUT's stance on this matter of vital importance. I'm sure many parents are unaware of this disgraceful practice and that all parents will want to get behind the campaign for our schools to employ qualified teachers."

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About Randstad Education

Randstad Education is a specialist division of Randstad, the world's second-largest staffing services group. It is the leading UK and global educational staffing specialist, providing quality, individual service to over 10,000 teachers and support staff and to the 15,000 schools who have used its service throughout the UK. Randstad Education teachers, assistants and lecturers work alongside 135,000 young people per day across 2,500 schools a week, positively shaping their lives at nurseries, schools, colleges and training organisations across the UK.

Established in 1993, Randstad Education, formerly Select Education, has a network of more than 30 offices

throughout the UK with teams of education specialists, including dedicated primary, secondary, special needs, early years and further education consultants.

Working closely with the Department for Education (DfE), Home Office and other government bodies, it also partners on ground-breaking education research with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Campaign for Learning. As a result the company has pioneered many aspects of educational staffing, from quality controls and systems through to introducing new services for SEN and teaching assistants.

Randstad Education Limited is an accredited Investor in People (IIP) organisation, a member of the REC (Recruitment and Employment Confederation) and is accredited with the Government's Quality Mark and the international quality standard BS EN ISO 9002.

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