

27 May 2026

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Dear Bridget,

On the 1st May 1,000 schools support staff from more than 30 schools went on strike across Greenwich and Merton.

They are striking over the pay inequality which blights support staff in these boroughs when compared to teachers.

Teachers in these boroughs receive the inner London weighting payment with support staff receiving only the outer London weighting - this can be the difference of over £1,000 per year.

The local authorities have said that it is you that needs to give permission for them to use the general fund to make the uplifts.

GMB is writing to you to ask that you provide this authorisation and to request a meeting with you to discuss this urgent issue.

We will be escalating our action and calling further walk outs in September.

Yours sincerely,



Nadine Houghton
Regional Secretary