

RISKS TAKEN WITH VIOLENT PUPILS

Pupils and school staff are being put at risk as a result of the failure of some schools to share information about violent and disruptive pupils.

The Annual Conference of the **NASUWT-The Teachers' Union** has heard today that in too many cases adequate risk assessments are not undertaken of pupils who persistently display high levels of aggression and violence in school. Even where such assessments are made, the details are often not shared or passed on to staff, particularly when pupils move schools.

11% of teachers surveyed by the NASUWT say they have been subjected to physical violence by pupils in the last year. 15% say they have received threats of physical violence by pupils. 52% have been subjected to verbal abuse from those they teach.

Chris Keates, General Secretary of the NASUWT, said:

“Pupil behaviour is one of the top concerns that teachers raise about their job.

“Yet evidence shows that teachers are not receiving the support to tackle these issues.

“Where a pupil is known to exhibit violent and disruptive behaviour, a risk assessment should be undertaken and action taken to support the pupil to address their behaviour and to protect other pupils and staff.

“In too many cases no effective assessment is ever undertaken. Even if it is, all too often this is not always shared with all staff or is not passed on to receiving schools if the pupil is moved.

“Employers who fail to disclose safety information leave themselves vulnerable to legal challenge and industrial action, but more importantly they are behaving recklessly with the health and wellbeing of staff and other pupils and this simply cannot be justified.”

NASUWT

The Teachers' Union