

## TEACHERS' PENSIONS

The NASUWT has received reports from members about contact they have received from a company called The Teachers' Retirement Agency. This has caused concern for the NASUWT, not least because the material produced by the Teachers' Retirement Agency is skilfully designed to look as though it has been produced by Teachers' Pensions. The Teachers' Retirement Agency frequently charges teachers to attend its pensions seminars, or engages in pensions selling at these.



The name of this company also confuses some Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) members, particularly older members, because they believe that their pension is administered by the Teachers' Pensions Agency (TPA) and that the Teachers' Retirement Agency is linked to this in some way. **This is not the case – the Teachers' Pensions Agency has not existed for many years.** The NASUWT has raised concerns about the Teachers' Retirement Agency with the DfE and



Teachers' Pensions has made the following information about the Company available on its website:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/public-news/2019/04/member-presentations.aspx>.

The DfE monitors the operation of companies purporting to provide regulated pensions advice for regulatory breaches. The DfE has advised the NASUWT in respect of the Teacher Retirement Agency that the Department has no evidence that the Company has claimed to be the TPS administrator or to be linked to the administrator. If any members have evidence that this is occurring it would be helpful if this could be provided to the NASUWT via [CPC@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:CPC@mail.nasuwt.org.uk) and the Union will liaise with the DfE and the Pensions Regulator over this.

In addition, if members do have information about misleading advertising, attempts to induce opt-outs from the TPS or other malpractice on the part of any financial advisor, it would be helpful if this could be reported to the NASUWT via [CPC@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:CPC@mail.nasuwt.org.uk) alongside any report to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Please head all emails 'Concerns about pensions advice.' NASUWT members can access free pensions planning advice from Wesleyan, on: <https://www.wesleyan.co.uk/teachers>.

## CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

**I have been getting** a lot of enquiries regarding Coronavirus. Please refer to the NASUWT website for the latest information, this will be updated as the Public Health England (PHE) advice changes:

<https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/advice/health-safety/coronavirus-guidance.html>

Please pay particular attention to this statement and get in touch if any issues arise:

*"Where teachers are absent from work due to self-isolation, the NASUWT would expect that appropriate arrangements are made to ensure that the absence does not lead to any detriment to teachers' pay, by ensuring that relevant procedures are used to ensure that teachers receive full pay during their absence through relevant and appropriate policies such as authorised leave sick leave provisions or medical suspension. During self-isolation the teacher may not develop coronavirus and therefore authorised leave would be more appropriate than sick leave or medical suspension. Fit notes are unlikely to be obtainable and should not be requested but teachers should be able to provide details of the reasons for the self-isolation and the advice they have taken and from whom.*

*Absence due to self-isolation should be disregarded for absence management procedures".*

The following document is the latest from DfE and Public Health England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19> -

Where individual schools are making their own plans the usual school teacher terms and conditions would apply. If schools are closed to pupils only staff may be expected in school unless ill or self-isolating **but** we don't yet have any DfE guidance on if schools will close and whether this will be for pupils or pupils and staff.



The COBRA meeting held on 12th March decided not to close schools.

I am sure some schools will try and plan their own measures but they will have to adhere to PHE and DfE advice. NASUWT guidance will support you so please keep checking the website and, if you are on social media, the Facebook and Twitter sites. This is a constantly changing situation so please refer to official news outlets and websites when looking for information.

**Anne Rycroft, Wirral NASUWT Secretary**



## Are you using the Membership Benefits Website?

<https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/about-nasuwt/benefits-and-services.html>

At our most recent Executive Committee Meeting some members discussed the NASUWT website and how they had not been aware of the range of services available. Members should regularly log in to this website and see what is on offer as there are some great savings to be made. There is free financial advice through our partner Wesleyan and Thompsons Solicitors offer a free and easy will writing service. There are a range of insurance and travel deals available offering big discounts on some necessary expenditure.

As an NASUWT member, you can take advantage of a wide range of discounts and exclusive offers on your home, car, electrical goods, eating out, leisure activities, retail gift cards, holidays and travel.



## NASUWT Wirral Workplace Representatives Training



This year's training for School Reps will take place at Prenton Park, Tranmere Rovers FC on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

**We will be giving training sessions on Mental Health, E-Safety and Ofsted Deep Dives.**

All current School Reps will be invited. If your school does not have a Workplace Rep and you are interested in attending this free training get in touch with Anne [annerycroft@gmail.com](mailto:annerycroft@gmail.com) to see how you can go about being elected as School Rep.

## The NASUWT promises to members:

- Ensuring your voice is heard
- Campaigning on issues that matter to you
- Supporting you at every stage of your career
- Nationally accredited CPD and professional courses
- Help when you need it
- Specialist legal assistance
- Exclusive benefits and services
- Thousands of High Street discounts
- World-class conferences and events
- Listening to you
- Protecting your rights at work



### WIRRAL ASSOCIATION NASUWT MEETINGS

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
Local Executive Committee  
and School Reps Meeting.  
4.15-5.30 p.m.  
Gilbrook School  
Glebe Hey Road,  
Woodchurch, CH49 8HE.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**  
School Reps Training Day.  
Details to be confirmed.

All members are welcome to attend our meetings, especially members wishing to become School Reps, Health & Safety Reps or School Staff Governors.

**Excellent training is provided by  
NASUWT-The Teachers' Union.**

## Recruit a Friend and get Love 2 Shop Vouchers

The Recruit a Friend Scheme rewards existing NASUWT members who recruit friends and colleagues to join them in the Union. The rewards, which come in the form of Love2Shop vouchers, rise incrementally in value for every member recruited.



If you recruit one member, you will receive £10 in vouchers, for two to five members, you will receive £15 per new member, and for six or more members, you will receive a £20 voucher for every new member.

Invite your friends and colleagues to join and if they become members between 1 January

2020 and 31 December 2020, you will receive rewards in the form of Love2Shop vouchers, which can be spent at over 20,000 stores, restaurants and attractions throughout the UK.

## NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

**MEMBER SUPPORT  
ADVICE TEAM**

The dedicated number for all members to access help and advice. Calls are free from all landlines and mobile phone networks:

**03330 145550**

Members can also e-mail to:  
**[advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)**

**NASUWT**  
The Teachers' Union

If any member would like to contribute to the **Wirral Association NASUWT NEWSLETTER**, please contact Mick Robinson. Mob: 07739422181 or E-mail: [mickrobinson@nasuwt.net](mailto:mickrobinson@nasuwt.net). Members are asked to share the **NEWSLETTER** with colleagues on your NASUWT Noticeboard.

Visit the Wirral NASUWT website  
[www.wirralassociationnasuwt.org](http://www.wirralassociationnasuwt.org)