



National Education Union in transition

Protocol for reps and contacts

How will the National Education Union impact on your current rep/contact role?

Strengthening our influence at schools and colleges in an ever more fragmented education landscape lies at the heart of the new union's rationale. Strong rep teams to secure an inclusive and representative union in every workplace our members work in is our long-term objective.

The effective date for the National Education Union to come into being is 1 September 2017, when ATL and NUT will operate in parallel sections governed by their current democratic structures under the umbrella of a Joint Executive Council until full amalgamation in January 2019, with joint general secretaries until 2023.

Transitional arrangements for ATL and NUT reps

During the transitional period from September 2017 to January 2019 there will be no change in our local structures and likewise no change in the appointment, election, roles and responsibilities of workplace reps and contacts. Support for reps and contacts will similarly remain unchanged.

Specifically, during the Sept 17 to Jan 19 transition period:

- There is no reason why either an ATL rep or an NUT rep should step down from their roles.
- Where ATL and NUT reps receive paid release/remission to undertake their roles there is no reason that should change either.
- Under the terms of the amalgamation all recognition agreements to which either ATL or NUT are signatories will be inherited by the National Education Union. There will be no need to review or amend any such agreements.

In maintained/academy schools and sixth form colleges across England & Wales:

- Where there is both an ATL and an NUT rep in your school then you will each represent ATL section and NUT section members now and you should meet regularly to co-ordinate recruitment, communication, negotiation and representation matters, just as many of you will be doing already.
- Where there is not a rep in your school from one section then the section members will first be given the opportunity to elect a rep in accordance with their sectional rules. In the interim, members from the section without a rep will be entitled to seek support from the other section's rep.

How about independent schools?

Where ATL has sole recognition (e.g. Girls Day School Trust) and/or where NUT is not currently recognised, that recognition will cover the combined National Education Union membership, and the ATL rep will act as the lead rep for consultation and negotiation.

How about Soulbury Members?

As NUT has sole recognition for teachers on Soulbury terms and conditions and ATL is not currently recognised, that recognition will cover the combined National Education Union membership, and the NUT rep will act as the lead rep for consultation and negotiation.

How about teachers in Residential Establishments?

As NUT has sole recognition for teachers in residential establishments and ATL is not currently recognised, that recognition will cover the combined National Education Union membership, and the NUT rep will act as the lead rep for consultation and negotiation.

How about FE colleges?

During transition the National Education Union will inherit an almost exclusively ATL membership and recognition will cover the combined NEU membership led by ATL reps for consultation and negotiation.

How about Northern Ireland & Scotland?

As the NUT does not currently operate in either of these nations, during transition the National Education Union will inherit an exclusively ATL membership, and in Northern Ireland, recognition.

How about Leadership members?

ATL AMiE members will be supported exactly as now, first via their ATL workplace rep and when they choose it via our dedicated team of AMiE regional officers by calling the AMiE helpline 01858 464171. NUT Leadership members will also be supported exactly as now, via their local elected structures or by the AdviceLine.

How about post-transition?

From January 2019, we will encourage ATL and NUT reps to remain in post and operate as joint National Education Union reps. The NEU provides an opportunity to combine our resources and build strength by maximising the contribution of all reps in any workplace, ATL and NUT, including those leading on union learning, equalities or health and safety.

Use your voice to shape the National Education Union

Every sector and segment of membership will be valued in the National Education Union and will continue to operate exactly as now during the transition. The post-transition rulebook secures much of this activity within the NEU once ATL and NUT sections fully amalgamate in January 2019.

So now it is up to reps and members in the various sectors to use their voices and develop these networks to shape the NEU to be as effective as possible on their behalf. During transition this will mean developing close links with counterparts in the other section.

The NEU's twin campaigning priorities of workload and funding will provide an excellent opportunity to consolidate these links, work together and to be a game-changer across our members' workplaces, sectors and nations. In many schools and colleges, the combined NEU membership will constitute the majority of the workforce. It is up to ATL and NUT reps to work even closer together than they do now, to take this opportunity in both hands, and make it count for our members.

Further information

If you have any further questions, contact your ATL branch secretary or NUT division secretary, or else your Wales/Northern Ireland/regional office.