



I want to  
**live**  
not just  
**exist**

## **UNISON and Catholic schools working together for a Living Wage**

We know that pay is an important issue for school staff. That is why UNISON, the biggest union for school support staff, is working together with Catholic dioceses and schools to help them implement the Living Wage.

### **What is the Living Wage?**

The idea behind a Living Wage is that a person should be paid enough to live decently and to adequately provide for their family. At its heart is an ethical argument for preventing in-work poverty.

### **The Living Wage rates**

The Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently every year. It is calculated as the minimum hourly wage necessary for an individual to

meet their own or their family's basic day-to-day needs. Unlike the national minimum wage it's voluntary – but a growing number of employers are paying the Living Wage.

There are two national Living Wage figures that have become established:

1. The rate for outside London is £7.65 per hour
2. The London Living Wage (LLW) is set by Greater London Authority (GLA) and is £8.80 per hour

The introduction of the Living Wage will be a massive boost to school staff in low paid catering and cleaning roles in particular and will help staff make ends meet in difficult times.

## UNISON and the church tackling in work poverty

For over a century Catholic Social Teaching has supported calls for a Living Wage. Many local parishes and schools are working alongside UNISON at the forefront of community anti-poverty campaigns.

Our work comes at a critical time. In-work poverty is a significant problem and today 60% of children in poverty grow up in a working household.

### What UNISON is doing

- We are meeting with your diocese to plan a joint Living Wage campaign in all Catholic schools and the wider community
- We have produced a Living Wage implementation plan for your school – this plan includes the roll out of the Living Wage to the lowest paid school staff and also those staff working for contractors in your school, such as catering and cleaning
- We are continuing to offer members a range of exclusive discounts to help them make

ends meet, together with debt advice and counselling via our unique charity 'There for You'.

### What you can do

Tackling poverty is a community issues so we need everyone to get involved: You can help by:

- Speaking to your local church and UNISON rep – ask them for an update on the campaign
- Keep an eye on the UNISON website for updates on our Living Wage work at [unison.org.uk](http://unison.org.uk)
- Encourage friends and family members to support UNISON and the Catholic Church's Living Wage campaign
- Join UNISON and our campaign for the Living Wage.



## Three simple ways to join UNISON today and get essential cover wherever you work



Join online at  
[joinunison.org](http://joinunison.org)



Call us on  
**0800 0 857 857**



Ask your UNISON rep  
for an application form