

# Teaching Assistants **A Class Act**

**UNISON** speaking up for TAs



Most schools today couldn't  
run without teaching assistants.

**Did you know...**

**UNISON**  
*the public service union*

## Teaching assistants work with teachers to help our children learn and develop to be the best they can be.

Teaching assistants'\* roles vary between schools, but they carry out a huge variety of tasks and schools couldn't function without them. With the right training, some teaching assistants teach whole classes under the direction of a qualified teacher. Head teachers, teachers, pupils and parents all place huge value on teaching assistants.

### Teaching assistants:

- ★ adapt resources for disabled students
- ★ work with individual pupils, small groups and children with special needs
- ★ supervise classes for absent teachers
- ★ manage other classroom support staff
- ★ support pupils' social and emotional well-being
- ★ supervise children on out-of-school activities
- ★ monitor, assess and record pupil data
- ★ run breakfast and after-school clubs
- ★ invigilate exams and tests
- ★ supervise lunch and play times
- ★ prepare learning materials.

And yet they are poorly paid for the responsibility they take; often work unpaid overtime and have insecure contracts.

\* TAs have a number of titles including learning support assistants, classroom assistants and pupil support assistants.

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**UNISON is campaigning for teaching assistants and other school support staff to get the recognition they deserve.**

**Please send your message of support for teaching assistants to [education@unison.co.uk](mailto:education@unison.co.uk) or follow UNISON on *Facebook* and *Twitter* – visit [unison.org.uk/at-work/education-services](http://unison.org.uk/at-work/education-services).**

**UNISON represents public service workers wherever they work. Including in hospitals, schools, local authorities, utilities and private companies. In a time of government-imposed pay freezes, austerity and inflation, UNISON offers many benefits and discounts as well as protection at work.**

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