

# Education research group joins call to count TA vacancies



A prestigious education research group has joined GMB's demand for teaching assistant vacancies to be monitored amid an 'acute' shortage.

The report by the [National Foundation for Educational Research](#) into special schools this week made the call because of the 'criticality of teaching assistants to special schools'.

GMB has long-campaigned for school support staff vacancies to be recorded by the ONS - in the same way teaching vacancies are.

School support staff are paid an average of just £20,600 per year – less than care and leisure workers – and the report says 'evidence suggests teaching assistant shortages are acute'



But the only way to find out the vacancy rate is to submit a Freedom of Information request to every school and academy in the country.

GMB has previously written to Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson calling for support staff vacancies to be recorded – the Department for Education is now looking into the matter.

**Stacey Booth, GMB National Officer, said:**

“It’s an absolute scandal the vacancy rates of school support staff is not recorded.

“GMB research last year – which had to be done using FOI requests – showed one in five vacancies.

“This forgotten army of education professionals do an incredibly job but are paid woefully; it’s no wonder there is an acute crisis.

“But until we know the full scale of the problem, how can we do anything about it?”

ENDS

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