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To: Our East of England Teachers & Education Workers

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020**

**RE: SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS & EDUCATION WORKERS**

Dear Teachers & Education Workers,

We write to extend our solidarity with you in your stance regarding the Government's June plans for pupil returns.

We believe it is a sensible position of caution that you and your representative bodies have taken, underpinned by the support echoed by the British Medical Association last week and the support of the Independent SAGE this week.

The concerns you have raised are legitimate. The considered tests and robust safety protocols you have proposed, are a simple commonsense approach. You are the custodians of the nation's children, we trust you and we know you are insisting on these measures due to your compassionate concern for the welfare of our children, their families and the wider community, as well as the risk to teachers, their colleagues and their families.

We reject the evocation of "heroism" to justify the unnecessary danger key workers such as yourselves, and now greater numbers of the workforce, are being subjected to by this Government due to its own shortcomings and failures.

We thank all your members who have been involved in the provision of in-person schooling to the children of other key workers, placing yourselves at additional risk by delivering it. Without this, our members and other key workers would not have been able to continue delivering our frontline response needed to keep the country moving. We also thank you for delivering content and online interaction so that all those who have been able to stay at home, mitigating the risk to others who cannot stay at home, have been able to provide their children with continued education, teacher-pupil interactions and some semblance of normality.

Regardless of what some media outlets may write about you, we already think you are heroes for the valuable work you do in your contribution to the collective national effort, both now and before the pandemic.

Thank you again and please know you have our support.

Yours In Unity,

**Cameron Matthews**  
Regional Chair  
Eastern FBU