As a UNISON member who works in an academy school that applies the national (NJC) pay award to support staff, you are facing a measly 1% pay offer. If your hourly rate is between £6.45 and £7.26 you have been offered slightly more than 1% but only to keep your pay levels just above the National Minimum Wage.

UNISON thinks the pay offer is too low and thinks you are worth more – it doesn’t keep pace with price rises and it won’t add much to your pension. It is a woeful offer to school support staff who work hard day-in day-out to support our children’s education.

Across public services staff have been told that holding down wages will protect jobs and services. In reality the employers have cut jobs and services as well as given pitiful pay rises.

That’s why you and other school support staff are being balloted to join a strike over the pay offer. UNISON is urging you to fight for a better pay deal by voting yes for industrial action.

Our claim for an increase of a minimum of £1 an hour for all school support staff is affordable. The government claims it has protected school budgets and we have seen some senior leaders pocket large pay increases in recent years – so we know the money is there.

The ballot closes on 24 September so make sure you’ve voted by then.

You will receive ballot papers by post at your home address. Please Vote Yes for strike action.

Find out more at: unison.org.uk/2014-NJCaCademies-pay
We are stronger together

If we don’t make a stand, the government and your academy school employer will continue to hold down your pay and conditions. The valuable work that you do for our children and the community will be undermined.

It’s never easy to take strike action and we only ask you when it is absolutely necessary. A strong yes vote would show the academy employers that we are prepared to defend our pay and encourage them to put pressure on national negotiators to find a resolution.

A strong Vote Yes for action will send a message to the government that enough is enough and they can’t just keep cutting services, jobs and pay without being challenged. We are stronger together.

Spread the word

Speak to colleagues about pay in your workplace. Emphasise how important it is that they use their vote and encourage those colleagues not in the union to join and vote at this important time.

Please:
• give your colleagues a copy of this leaflet and talk to them about the 1% pay offer
• urge them to use their vote and ask them to Vote Yes for strike action
• ask colleagues who aren’t in UNISON to join and have their say on pay
• keep up to date with the pay campaign by going to meetings organised by your UNISON branch.

Wherever you work, whatever your job, you need to have your say on pay – Vote Yes for strike action. We have over 600,000 members in local government and schools and we are stronger together.

unison.org.uk/2014-NJCacademies-pay

If you have not received your ballot paper you can request one online at unison.org.uk/my-unison or call 0800 0 857 857 (Monday to Friday from 6am until midnight and 9am to 4pm on Saturdays). The ballot helpline closes at 12 noon on 19 September 2014 and that will be the last opportunity to request a paper.