Return to workplaces - Survey of TUI members in Post Primary & Further/Adult Education sectors

Carried out between September 25th and October 5th 2020 - 1551 responses (78% Post Primary, 22% Further/Adult Education)

Workload

- 95% believe that there has been an increase in their workload in the new academic year as a result of preparing/adapting classes for the new workplace environment.

- 95% said their work was somewhat more difficult (37%) or significantly more difficult (58%) at present in comparison to its level of difficulty 12 months ago.

COVID-19 resources

- 71% do not believe that the enhanced teaching/staffing allocation provided to their workplace as a result of COVID-19 has been sufficient to meet additional requirements.

- 49.81% believe that their workplace has been provided with the requisite resources to ensure a satisfactory cleaning regime, with 50.19% believing that it has not been provided with the requisite resources.

From a given list, respondents ranked the following measures in order of what they would most like to see in their workplace to counter the risk of COVID-19

1. More physical space
2. Smaller class groups
3. More teachers
4. School/centre-based COVID-19 testing
5. Provision of ICT equipment, technological support, professional development and ongoing training in ICT
6. Better ventilation
7. COVID-19 breaks during working hours
8. Measures (other than online provision) to support teacher wellbeing

Health concerns of teachers and their families

- 23% of respondents said that they have an underlying health issue that is of concern to them in terms of COVID-19.

- 11% of respondents share a household with somebody who is over 70 years of age.

- 31% of respondents share a household with somebody who has underlying medical issues that makes them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

- 30% of respondents have considered leaving the profession or retiring early as a result of COVID-19.

- 96% think that accelerated/rapid COVID-19 testing for students, teachers and other staff is essential to limit disruption over the coming months.

Calculated grades process

84% of teachers who took part in the Calculated Grades process found their role to be very stressful (39%) or stressful (45%).

Face coverings

92% of teachers believe that wearing a face covering during class makes their work significantly more difficult (55%) or more difficult (37%).

Remote teaching and learning – additional workload

Following the closure of schools, colleges and centres last March, 86% of respondents found that the preparation, provision and associated work involved in providing classes remotely took more time than traditional face to face delivery (26%) or much more time (60%) than face to face delivery.

Remote teaching and learning – ICT facilities

- Should their workplace be required to close for a period of time as a result of any development related to COVID-19, 36% would be satisfied that most students have the required ICT facilities (not including broadband) to participate in remote learning. 52% do not believe most students have the required ICT facilities, and 12% don't know.

- 54% of respondents said that their school/ETB did not provide them with ICT equipment to facilitate their work following the closure of their school/centre last March. 46% said they were provided with ICT equipment.

- Aside from regular domestic utility bills such as electricity, broadband etc., 38% of respondents incurred costs (which were not reimbursed) relating to remote teaching following the closure of their school/centre last March.

- Should their workplace be required to close for a period of time as a result of any development related to COVID-19, 72% of respondents would be satisfied that they have the required ICT facilities (not including broadband) to facilitate remote learning. 28% are not satisfied that they have the required ICT facilities.

Remote teaching and learning – broadband availability

Should their workplace be required to close for a period of time as a result of any development related to COVID-19, 50% believe that broadband of a sufficient quality is available in the area of the school community to facilitate remote learning, with 33% believing that it is not available while 17% don't know.

Remote teaching and learning – training

If their workplace was required to close for a period during this academic year as a result of any development related to COVID-19, 54% believe that they have received the relevant training to facilitate effective remote learning, while 46% believe they have not received the relevant training.

Continuing damage of pay discrimination

89% believe that the two-tier system of pay that discriminates against those appointed since 1st January 2011 continues to damage morale among teaching staff.