



Teachers' Union of Ireland

25 March 2020

Joe McHugh TD,  
Minister for Education and Skills,  
Department of Education and Skills,  
Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.  
D01 RC96

[minister@education.gov.ie](mailto:minister@education.gov.ie).

Dear Minister,

We write seeking your support for substitute teachers, who usually provide day-to-day cover within schools and whose regular work has ended for at least three weeks while schools are closed.

We welcome government's decision to establish a temporary wage subsidy scheme. We hope that substitute teachers, whose work has stopped will be eligible for this scheme. If the scheme will be available to substitute teachers we urge you to let us know so that we can bring the good news to our substitute members as soon as possible.

If substitute teachers are not currently eligible under the terms of the scheme we request that you ensure that they are included or, alternatively, that your Department makes similar provision for them. In the meantime, we would appreciate if you would confirm that as an interim measure, substitute teachers are eligible to apply for the enhanced Covid-19 unemployment benefit of €350 per week.

We are anxious to ensure that the minds of these key education workers are put at ease and that they and their families are in a position to meet the immediate challenge during this difficult period.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Christie  
General Secretary,  
ASTI

John Boyle  
General Secretary,  
INTO

John Mac Gabhann  
General Secretary, TUI