

Teachers need a bigger pie

Ann Mroz (“Teachers can’t eat respect – they need proper pay as well as plaudits”, 7 July) is right – teachers “need proper pay” and schools need the money to fund it. The situation must be serious when we have Michael Gove as a champion of teachers’ pay!

With graduates finding more financially rewarding careers, workload continuing to be a problem, growing numbers of teachers leaving and targets for recruitment missed, there is a cliff-edge crisis in recruitment and retention. In evidence to the School Teachers’ Review Body, Voice highlighted the impact of performance-related pay, lack of a national pay scale and the inability of schools to make pay awards. Funding earmarked for grammar schools or ineffective recruitment campaigns would be more effective if paid to teachers and used to address the real cost pressures facing schools. Although a fair funding formula is required, cutting up the same pie in a different way is not the answer. Schools and teachers need a bigger pie.

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