

**IMMEDIATE**  
**14 May 2004**

**NASUWT dubs proposals on welsh tests a 'Trojan Horse'**

Commenting on the publication of the Daugherty Report on testing in Wales for 11 and 14 year olds **Chris Keates, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the union representing 223,500 serving teachers and the largest union in Wales**, said:

"The proposals to phase out tests for 11 and 14 year olds undoubtedly have a superficial attraction but are in fact a Trojan Horse'.

"Emerging experience from the removal of the national tests for 7 year olds in Wales is that the number of tests and the amount of teacher assessment has in fact increased.

"This relentless enthusiasm for doing things differently in Wales has the potential to make things worse.

"The problem is not and never has been the tests themselves but the amount of testing, the accountability arrangements and the culture of competition between schools.

"All of this has contributed to the excessive workload of teachers and does nothing to raise standards.

"NASUWT will continue its campaign for the removal of performance tables and accountability structures which place unnecessary and onerous burdens on schools and teachers.

"We will also oppose vigorously any attempt to introduce systems which threaten to undermine the gains being secured through the Workload Agreement."

**...ENDS...**

Further:

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