

IMMEDIATE

13 December 2004

NASUWT calls for the Government and the Conservative Party to unite to protect teachers

Commenting on the Conservative Party's call for anonymity for teachers accused of child abuse, **Chris Keates General Secretary of NASUWT** the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"NASUWT has campaigned for years for recognition of the fact that teachers are vulnerable to false, malicious and exaggerated allegations by pupils.

"Such claims devastate the lives of teachers and their families. Careers are ruined and tragically lives can be lost. Trauma and stress is often increased by the inordinate amount of time taken to investigate the allegation. This in turn increases the risk of public exposure in the media.

"I welcome the recognition by the Government and the Conservative Party of the validity of the NASUWT's call for greater protection for teachers, including anonymity for those accused.

"I hope that both parties can now unite in their common concern behind measures which will see this injustice rectified without further delay."