

EMBARGO: 10 am
Wednesday 8 September 2004

Extended primary schools – NUT reaction

Commenting on the Government's announcement of extended primary schools, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“The Government's decision to expand the provision of schools offering a full range of community services will be welcomed by teachers across the country.

“Crucial to extended schools must be the availability of social services and psychological support to help vulnerable children. Immediate help for children in such need can make all the difference.

“Teachers must be at the centre of deciding whether or not to become an extended school. Imposition is entirely inappropriate for such an initiative.

“In addition, the necessary resources must be made available to enable the employment of extra staff to provide the extended school day. Teacher involvement beyond the normal school day must not be on a compulsory basis. Their workload is already immense and placing a requirement on them to take on more would merely serve to damage existing provision.

“Care must be taken to ensure that work undertaken in after school clubs does not contradict or undermine the education provided to pupils during the day.

“We look forward to a constructive dialogue with both Government and local authorities on how extended primary schools can be developed.”

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PR56/04

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