

Government initiative on pupils' behaviour - NUT reaction

Commenting on the Government's initiative on pupil behaviour announced today, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“This initiative by the Government is very welcome. It is pleasing that the Education Secretary has acted so quickly on an issue of concern to every teacher in the country.

“The Leadership Group will help produce practical proposals which can be considered in the autumn. Low level pupil disruption is a serious problem in our schools and undermines the education of every other pupil in a class and the teachers' teaching.

“The idea of a national discipline code fits well with the Union's call for a charter setting out support and sanctions for use in schools in accordance with teachers' professional judgement.

“The wider issue of pupil violence also needs to be tackled. Currently no-one knows the scale of the problem because the statistics are woefully inadequate. Until we know the scale of the problem, whether such incidents are concentrated in particular types of schools or areas, and more, it is impossible to look at ways of combating the problem.

“There is also an urgent need for advice to schools on protecting teachers working in their classrooms after the end of the school day. The horrific rape of our member on her second day in a new school underlines the urgency of the need.

“Nonetheless this initiative will help schools and will provide practical support and advice in the very near future.”

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