

**IMMEDIATE
15 FEBRUARY 2005**

**SELECT COMMITTEE'S DISMISSAL OF CONCERNS ABOUT
EDUCATIONAL VISITS WAS IRRATIONAL AND BLINKERED SAYS
NASUWT**

Commenting on reports of the proposed guidance on educational visits to be announced today by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"This is an extremely helpful and welcome development.

"NASUWT has been engaged in discussions for several months with DfES officials about our concerns and the Government has responded constructively to these.

"This is in stark contrast to the irrational and blinkered approach taken by the Education and Skills Select Committee to the issues raised by NASUWT in the inquiry into education outside the classroom.

"The Secretary of State has recognised that the genuine concerns of teachers about the risks involved in participating in educational visits needed to be addressed seriously. Her statement today represents a significant step in the right direction.

"When the detailed guidance is published I am confident that the NASUWT National Executive will wish to respond positively."