

IMMEDIATE

2 December 2004

LEAGUE TABLES AT ODDS WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES - SAYS NASUWT

Commenting on the publication of primary school performance league tables, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"It is regrettable that the Government is determined to cling to this unnecessary, annual ritual.

"League tables are divisive and demoralising. There are much more appropriate and effective methods of accountability.

"The value-added dimension offers the illusion of greater fairness but the true worth of the data remains questionable. The criteria are limited and fail to recognise the real achievements of the many working hard and successfully with challenging pupils.

"The tables encourage competition between schools at a time when the Government is promoting collaboration.

"They put pressure on teachers to teach to the tests, when the Government is pressing for curriculum breadth and enrichment.

"The Government should abandon this practice which is increasingly at odds with its own policy."