

IMMEDIATE

Wednesday 15 September

NASUWT WELCOMES RE-EMERGENCE OF THE VALUE OF TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT

Commenting on the announcement by the Government of the extension of the Key Stage 1 assessment process to all primary schools, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

“NASUWT monitored closely the trials on which this roll-out is to be based.

“Teachers generally welcomed the move away from the rigid adherence to the tests and the return of the opportunity for them to exercise professional judgment.

“However, it was also evident from the information we received that whilst the Government’s intention was for the scheme to be introduced without additional workload and bureaucratic burdens on teachers, the process used in some schools and LEAs had put teachers under additional pressure.

“NASUWT welcomes the assurances the DfES has given to us that steps will be taken to minimise variations of approach between schools and LEAs to prevent any adverse impact on teachers particularly from the moderation process.

“NASUWT will continue to monitor this development.

“This new system must work within the parameters of the contractual changes to reduce teacher workload and the principles of remodelling of the school workforce we have negotiated with the Government.

“However, although this new approach is to be welcomed, we remain convinced that whatever system is used the pressure on schools, rigidity of working practices and restrictions on the exercise of teachers’ professional judgment will continue while the performance league tables remain in place. A more sensible system of accountability is long overdue.”

ENDS

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