

Thursday 17 March 2005

Education Select Committee - NUT response

Commenting on the House of Common's Select Committee Report on Secondary Education and Academies, Steve Sinnott, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said:

“The Select Committee’s criticism of the Government’s determination to press ahead with an entirely untested and unproved initiative is damning.

“I call on the Government to follow the Select Committee’s advice and impose a moratorium on the Academy initiative and take the steps which the Select Committee advises.

“There is every argument for providing extra support for children in the most deprived areas. There is no argument for creating a range of schools which are independent and separate from the schools in their communities and from the support of local authorities.

“Teachers in Academies will be doing their best for the young people they teach. I feel very concerned for those staff who have to bear the weight of the Government’s unrealistic expectations based on an initiative which was introduced for political not educational reasons. I want the Government also to assess the impact of Academies on other schools and local authorities.”

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