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Select Committee report backs NUT fears

Commenting on the report by the House of Commons Education Select Committee on school admissions, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“The Select Committee is right to be concerned about the possibility of selection by stealth. It echoes those voiced by the NUT, particularly over the Government’s plan to expand significantly the academy programme.

“Charles Clarke is insistent that Labour policy is ‘non-selective, anti-selective’. If that is really the case, he must take very seriously this report from the Select Committee.

“It is the Government’s obsession with so-called choice that has rendered toothless the Code of Practice on Admissions. Local authorities and schools are asked the impossible when schools are encouraged to define themselves by designation rather than their ability to work together.

“The range of schools proposed by the Government will benefit those who can fight their way through a mass of varying admissions schemes yet leave those most in need of support to flounder.

“The Government may call it selection by aptitude, but that is meaningless against a background of targets and league tables which put pressure on schools to pick and choose their pupils. This is not parental choice, it is selection for the benefit of the few.”

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