

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 March 2004

NUT member Hazel Dick not guilty of racial assault on pupil

Hazel Dick, 43, head of science at Bretton Woods Community School in Peterborough, has been found not guilty of racially assaulting a pupil.

Ms Dick was supported throughout by the National Union of Teachers.

Commenting on the decision, Doug McAvoy, NUT General Secretary, said:

“Hazel Dick is another in a long list of teachers who have been subjected to malicious and unfounded allegations of assault.

“Throughout, she has insisted on her innocence and has now been vindicated.

“But she has had to endure the traumatic experience of being accused of totally unacceptable behaviour of a racist nature as well as the indignity of facing a criminal charge.

“Teachers are vulnerable to false allegations from pupils which can have a devastating effect on the teacher and his or her career. Pupils or parents making such false allegations must face action to deter copycat behaviour from others.

“It is essential that Ms Dick now be allowed to return to her school and continue her career.”

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