

03 March 2005

SHA responds to the Labour Party Campaign announcement

In response to the Labour Party Campaign announcement today, SHA broadly supports the proposals but has some concerns over the emphasis on parental rights and the implementation of personalised learning.

Deputy General Secretary, Martin Ward said:

The Labour Party announcement is similar to the DfES 5-Year strategy which has been in the public domain for some time, so there is not much new to excite school and college leaders. We have heard much of it before.

In response to the emphasis on parental involvement, Martin Ward said:

Most schools are already trying very hard to involve parents in their children's education. SHA believes that, while parents want to be consulted, they want to leave management of schools to professionals. They want their schools run by experienced, knowledgeable teachers and staff, who know what is best for their children.

The Labour Party announcement did not mention the views of students or the community, which are increasingly important in the context of extended schools and Every Child Matters.

SHA would like to see the same emphasis that is placed on parental input given to students and the community.

In response to the government's call for more personalised learning, Martin Ward said:

SHA has supported the idea of personalised learning for a number of years. The government must realise that tailored education is expensive and needs to be properly funded and supported. If it is not, they will raise parents expectations of a service that schools cannot deliver.