

**OFSTED's annual report - NUT reaction**

Commenting on the annual report of David Bell, Chief Inspector of Schools, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“This is the first time the Chief Inspector has explicitly recognized the impact of social class on children’s achievement. It represents a breakthrough in thinking.

“The Education Secretary must now act on the implications of the Chief Inspector’s concerns.

“One consequence must be the release of additional resources targeted at the specific needs of disadvantaged children. This must include personal tuition at key points in a child’s life.

“A far more systematic approach to funding schools to meet needs in areas of social deprivation must be developed.

“We must bring down all the barriers to learning.

“There is much to celebrate in David Bell’s report but there must be a recognition of the fact that schools in the toughest environments are often the most fragile. Imprecations to improve are not enough: neither is blame.

“Those teachers facing the toughest circumstances need the Government and local authorities to show them very real faith, commitment and support.”

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