

Funding for schools – NUT response to Miliband statement

Commenting on Education Minister David Miliband's statement on school funding for 2005-6 in the House of Commons today, 13 July, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“The announcement appears to show that the Government has responded to teachers' concerns over funding levels. But doubts and questions remain about the funding arrangements.

“Many primary schools are faced with falling pupil numbers. Will they receive sufficient cushioning and protection to enable them to maintain the curriculum? The statement is unclear on this.

“In September 2005, all teachers are to have guaranteed time outside the classroom during the pupil day for planning, preparation and assessment. Will schools have sufficient teachers to fulfill that guarantee?

“There remains a lack of transparency on how the funding settlement will effect individual schools. The NUT will be seeking a meeting with the Government to explore the position on protection for individual schools rather than simply looking at the overall percentage increase.”

E N D

PR46/04