

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

14 June 2004

NUT urges heads and chairs of governors not to use unqualified staff to teach

The National Union of Teachers is today sending letters to headteachers and chairs of governors of every school in England and Wales urging them not to put their children's education in jeopardy by using unqualified persons to teach whole classes.

Governors will be urged not to use a new regulation, which is part of the School Workforce Reform Agreement, allowing headteachers to appoint any person whether qualified as a teacher or not to teach whole classes.

Doug McAvoy, General Secretary, said:

"Parents do not want staff who are not qualified teachers taking responsibility for their children's education. Today the NUT takes its case to prevent this happening to every headteacher and chair of governors in England and Wales.

"Our statement makes the case for qualified teachers on grounds of educational standards. Standards cannot be improved nor maintained if schools employ unqualified persons to teach. I am confident that head teachers and governors will support our approach.

"Where schools are not adequately funded we will campaign for the necessary resources. The NUT shares the view of the National Association of Head Teachers, that it is for headteachers and governors to decide whether to employ unqualified persons.

"I have no doubt that we will gain support for our campaign that pupils should be taught by qualified teachers. I have no doubt that we will gain support from any political party anxious to show it is interested in the education of our youngsters."

E N D S

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NOTE: [Copies of the letters are attached as a PDF file.](#)

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