

EMBARGO
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Convenient refuge of inadequate funding no longer an option to avoid workforce reform, NASUWT warns schools

Commenting on School Standards Minister David Miliband's statement on the school funding settlement for 2005-06, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT (the teachers' union with 223,500 members), said:

"The genuine extra resources for schools this settlement represents are most welcome.

"Significant progress has been made since the funding furore raged last year.

"As a member of the National Funding Working Party, NASUWT has engaged in detailed and intensive work with the DfES to ensure that such problems did not arise again this year.

"The introduction of the minimum pupil guarantee and other strategies to support school budgets are important developments.

"The proposal to introduce three-year budgets for schools is a logical and inevitable consequence of the Government's ambition to bring stability and certainty to funding arrangements. It should help to improve all aspects of financial planning. However, there will never be an entirely satisfactory answer until LMS is replaced.

"Last year, the first phase of the contractual changes to reduce teacher workload was introduced. Many teachers eager to experience the benefits were faced with heads and governors citing insufficient funding as a reason for delay.

"Although I do not underestimate the problems some schools and LEAs faced, there were undoubtedly those who used funding as a convenient refuge to avoid implementation. This is no longer an option.

"This settlement clearly underlines the Government's commitment to workforce reform. It will provide the headroom all schools need to implement, without difficulty, all of the contractual changes, including the more costly element of guaranteed planning, preparation and assessment time due to be introduced in September 2005.

"NASUWT will not, therefore, tolerate any further prevarication or delay by schools seeking to deny teachers their entitlement to improved working conditions.

"The patience of NASUWT members is exhausted. Schools must understand that continued resistance to these changes will be met with appropriate action."

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Further:

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