

Thursday 7 April 2005

House of Commons Education and Skills Committee Report: Teaching children to read

Commenting on the Education and Skills Committee Report, Steve Sinnott, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said:

“I welcome the Select Committee’s Report. It is a thoughtful and helpful contribution to the debate on teaching reading.

“Unfortunately the teaching of reading has been politicised over the years with various camps arguing for their particular solutions in teaching reading. Wisely the Select Committee has resisted pressures to opt for one form of teaching reading over all others.

“The key messages of the report are clear. It is a matter of concern that teachers feel constrained to teach to the test. There should be intensive support for reading for all children that need it. New developments in teaching reading should always be based on evidence.

“I hope that during the General Election campaign is not bedevilled by political parties taking crude positions supporting one type of teaching reading to the detriment of others.

“The teaching of reading must not be a political football. The Select Committee report should provide the basis for a reasoned and rational debate involving the teaching profession after the General Election.”

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