

EMBARGO

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30 June 2004

“GTC CODE OF CONDUCT IS AMBIGUOUS AND OPEN TO ABUSE” SAYS NASUWT

The General Teaching Council (GTC) will consider at its meeting today (Wednesday 30 June) a draft Code of Conduct for Teachers.

Commenting on the draft Code, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT (the union representing 223,500 serving teachers), said:

“The Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 under which the GTC operates provides enabling powers for the introduction of a Code of Conduct. There is no requirement for the GTC to do so.

“Teachers are regulated sufficiently by school and LEA discipline, capability and financial procedures. The GTC Code of Conduct is superfluous.

“The descriptions the Code offers, in respect of circumstances in which teachers may be found guilty of unacceptable professional conduct, are ambiguous and open to abuse.

“The production of this Code will do nothing to enhance the professional status of teachers.

“The only likely outcome is that current indifference felt by the majority of teachers towards the GTC may turn to deep resentment.”

ENDS

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