

## **IMMEDIATE**

Wednesday 8 September 2004

### **NASUWT WELCOMES GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION THAT TEACHERS ARE IN SCHOOLS TO TEACH NOT CHILD MIND**

Responding to the announcement of the Government's plan to give working parents access to wraparound childcare for 10 hours a day at primary schools, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"High quality childcare is at a premium and the Government's motivation to invest in such provision is commendable.

"When this proposal was initially made in February 2004, a ministerial source was quoted as saying at that time that '*someone with a teaching qualification will be on hand all the time*'.

"It is gratifying to note in this recent announcement the Government has recognised such a proposal would be inconsistent with the provisions of our agreement to free teachers from inappropriate tasks to focus on teaching, and that they are in schools to teach not to child mind.

"However, it is essential that the responsibilities of headteachers with regard to this provision are clarified. They also have a contractual entitlement to a work/life balance. Arrangements should not be introduced which are inconsistent with this."

**ENDS**

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**National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers**