

IMMEDIATE

16 March 2005

NASUWT RESPONDS TO CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET STATEMENT

In an initial response to the Chancellor's Budget Statement in relation to the Education Service, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"I welcome the fact that education clearly remains at the top of the Government's priorities.

"The announcement with regard to increased capital funding to transform primary school buildings is a very important development. Pupils and teachers deserve nothing less than a high quality environment conducive to high standards of education.

"I sincerely hope that the Government does not allow PFI and private sponsorship to taint this welcome announcement.

"Secondary schools anxious about the implications of the White Paper will be very pleased to note the recognition by the Chancellor that the 14-19 agenda cannot be delivered without increased investment."

ENDS

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