

Government's maths initiative

Commenting on the Government's plans to try to overcome the shortage of maths teachers, Doug McAvoy, NUT General Secretary, said:

"It would be surprising if the Government didn't act on such a critical report. But all the evidence is that short-term responses do not deal with the underlying, deep-rooted problems.

"Differential pay for individual subjects such as maths fails to deal with the fact that virtually every subject in secondary schools is suffering from a shortage to a greater or lesser degree. The problem is worst for schools in challenging circumstances.

"Similar reports could have been written about science, information technology, modern foreign languages, music and religious education, to name but a few.

"Instead of sticking plaster solutions, the Government should be examining the causes of the reluctance of too many young people to come and to stay in teaching."

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