

## **IMMEDIATE**

Thursday 11 November 2004

### **PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE DAYCARE TRUST**

Commenting on the Prime Minister's speech to the Daycare Trust, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK said:

"High quality childcare is at a premium and the announcement of the Government's commitment to invest in such provision will be welcomed.

"Schools are at the heart of the community and it is inevitable that they will be central to the Government's plans for more flexible childcare arrangements.

"The Prime Minister's public commitment to 'working closely with the unions representing the majority of school staff, as we have been doing for the past two years over workforce remodelling' will reassure teachers that these developments are not intended either to add to the workload or responsibilities of teachers or to detract from the school's core focus on teaching and learning.

"Detailed discussions on extended schools are already underway and their development will form a key element of a package of support that will be undoubtedly be attractive to working parents."

**ENDS**

**Press office: 020 7420 9670**

Chris Keates GS  
Jerry Bartlett Acting DGS

Office: 0121 453 6150 Home: 0121 475 4016 Mobile: 07966 202403  
Office: 0121 453 6150 Home: 01562 742498 Mobile: 07966 202407

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