

17 March 2005

### **'NAHT DECISION IRRELEVANT' SAYS NASUWT**

Commenting on the NAHT decision to pull out of the National Agreement, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"The decision is irrelevant. It must rate as the non-event of the year.

"The contractual changes have statutory force. The law is the law and, whatever some NAHT members may think, they are not above it.

"The whole National Agreement is premised on raising standards. School leaders have a responsibility to engage in this important agenda. Headteacher members of NASUWT and other unions, including some NAHT members, are doing just that very effectively.

"I am unmoved by the NAHT threats that teachers will need to be made redundant to pay for the changes. Since time immemorial there have always been some headteachers who have sought to block improvements to working conditions with threats of job loss. This is the desperate refuge of ineffective management.

"Any headteacher who seeks to deprive teachers of their full contractual entitlements should now be prepared to face legal challenge and industrial action."