

**IMMEDIATE**

1 July 2004

**NASUWT response to increased numbers of  
city academies**

Commenting on increasing numbers of City Academies, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT (the teachers' union with 223,500 members), said:

"The Government's plans to forge ahead with increased numbers of City Academies will create a tier of elite schools which threaten to undermine the Government's agenda for raising standards for all children.

"The creation of further City Academies will seriously hamper progress on the Government's wider reform agenda. Since they operate outside the national pay and conditions arrangements, these City Academies will hold back the very important improvements already secured in respect of reducing teachers' workload under the National Agreement on *'Raising Standards and Tackling Workload'*. This will be to the detriment of teachers and pupils alike.

"The establishment of additional City Academies will further perpetuate the damaging competition that exists between schools."

**ENDS**

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