

IMMEDIATE

Friday 10 December 2004

**EMPLOYERS' ACTIONS SIGNAL CHAOS AND CONFUSION SAYS
NASUWT**

Commenting on statements by Donal Flanagan, the Chief Executive of The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), that teachers will be required to overcome additional obstacles in order to qualify for salary payments received in England two years ago, **Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT**, the largest teachers' union in Northern Ireland, said:

"The confrontational approach adopted by the CCMS is regrettable and profoundly unhelpful.

"Progress made on restoring pay parity for teachers in Northern Ireland is being placed in jeopardy.

"To place the onus on teachers to demonstrate they are worthy of a payment which should have been made to them two years ago is unacceptable and will be met with a robust response from NASUWT.

"Any school management seeking to follow the Employers' advice and introduce additional barriers to pay progression will face a formal dispute and potential industrial action.

"NASUWT has been inundated with calls from angry teachers.

"The whole process could potentially disintegrate into chaos and confusion."