

IMMEDIATE
27 April 2005

**UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION INTO CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE
UNWARRANTED AND UNETHICAL SAYS NASUWT**

Commenting on the media reports of the Channel Five programme 'Classroom Chaos' being aired tonight, **Chris Keates General Secretary** of NASUWT the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK said

"Sensationalising pupil indiscipline in this way is unwarranted, unethical and helps no one.

"The methodology used to make the programme could constitute an infringement of civil liberties of the staff who were filmed covertly.

"If the reports are to be believed, this programme will shed no light on the issues and will create a false impression of schools in chaos when the truth is that the overwhelming majority of classrooms and schools are orderly and safe.

"NASUWT has raised for a considerable time the issue of persistent and low level disruption. This has now been recognised by the Government and there is a serious commitment to working with NASUWT on this issue.

"The fact that NASUWT has highlighted consistently the existence of low level disruption and other forms of pupil indiscipline is not an indication that either pupils are out of control or that teachers can't cope but that teachers have an increasingly onerous task in striving to maintain high standards of behaviour.

"Tonight's programme is simply so called reality TV at its crudest and is populist programming at its worst. Regrettably there will be those who will jump on the bandwagon and seek to use it for their own ends.

"Fortunately no reasonable person will give credibility to the view that schools are in chaos.

"This programme is unlikely to generate either a serious debate or provide the support teachers and headteachers need."