

EMBARGO: 0030 hours
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Secondary school league tables - NUT response

Commenting on the secondary school league tables published by the Government today, January 13, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“Against the Government’s preferred means of judging school performance, academy status is not a resounding success story. With four of the 11 reporting academies coming in the bottom 200 schools, the message is that academies do not represent a magic solution.

“The reasons for a school’s success or failure are complex. Simply renaming a school as an academy is not a panacea for the problems of any area. The impact on pupil performance of social and economic deprivation has to be tackled with proper resources and support and a stable, qualified staff, not by resorting to the private sector.

“The Government should publish the evaluation of the academy programme which is in the hands of the Education Department.

“The NUT wants to work with the Government on the issue of disadvantage and on establishing a means of providing straight forward comprehensive information for parents and the public on the performance of schools. But that information must not be based on a narrow definition of achievement.”

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