



# NUT

SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER  
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# News

The largest teachers' union  
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# Schools white paper – a missed opportunity

## Increasing the divide

Michael Gove seems determined to pursue an ideologically driven education agenda that, despite the avowed intentions of the white paper, will increase bureaucracy and Government interference. It will increase the divide between schools not close it.

If the Education Secretary genuinely wishes England to do as well as countries such as Finland, to which he frequently refers in the White Paper, he should follow its example by replacing the inspection system with school self evaluation. He should also refrain from the publication of results by school League Tables and the setting of narrow performance targets and allow teachers to choose their own method of teaching reading.

## Pay, funding & teachers' rights

The Government says that it wants to raise the status of teaching but at the same time is cutting teacher pay and school funding.

There is already a significant amount of pay flexibility for teachers – national pay provisions are essential to the efficient functioning of a system containing well over 20,000 schools and some half a million teachers.

While not new, we welcome Michael Gove's clarification of teachers' rights to restrain and comfort pupils and the right to anonymity if being investigated for any allegation made against them.

## Academies and free schools – a wrong move

The expansion of the academies and free schools programme, with no evidence to show that it is the solution to raising attainment in schools, is a wrong move and will lead to a two tier education system.

Christine Blower, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said:

***"If all children are to be given the chance of a good education, regardless of their background, the Government needs to ensure that classrooms are staffed by fully qualified teachers, class sizes need to be reduced and the poverty gap closed. It is only through taking action on these issues, that progress will be made."***

Our aim – one union for all teachers

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