Excessive workload; workplace bullying; Academies; unacceptable behaviour; class sizes; OFSTED; play and learning; pensions; pay; and the Education and Inspections Bill: these were some of the issues discussed at the NUT’s Annual Conference at Torquay over Easter.

NATIONWIDE

Delegates from NUT associations and divisions across England and Wales came to Torquay to debate the means by which the Union can best promote and protect the education service for pupils and teachers.

YOUNG TEACHERS

The growth in the numbers of young teachers at Conference reflected the extent to which increasing numbers of young teachers are joining and getting involved in the NUT.

CONFERENCE DECIDES

After four days of far-ranging and expert debate, Conference decided that the Union should:

- seek a minimum of 20 per cent non-contact time;
- call for an increase in the funding available for PPA;
- demand limits to classroom observations;
- tackle issues of work place bullying;
- call upon all governments and international bodies, including in the Middle East, to respect a child’s right to education;
- insist that pastoral support and guidance is teachers’ work;
- campaign for the full restoration of permanent safeguarding for teachers;
- campaign for an end to the Academies programme;
- continue a vigorous campaign against the testing regime in schools;
- urge the Government to direct resources to age-based play activities in schools;
- call for a proper work/life balance for teachers;
- demand that early years’ education be staffed by qualified teachers with support staff;
- produce a charter of rights for SEN pupils;
- intensify the Union’s campaign against the Education and Inspections Bill;
- seek the broadest support for comprehensive education;
- launch a national campaign to reduce class sizes;
- call for the abolition of OFSTED;
- campaign for increased resources, including teachers to schools in special measures;
- call for the publication of race equality policies within all schools;
- sponsor the production of educational resources to combat racism, anti-Semitism, Islamaphobia and racial intolerance;
- defend and improve teachers’ pensions;
- seek pay increases of £2,500 or 10 per cent whichever is the greater;
- call for local authorities to be responsible for coordinating the admission policies of all government funded schools;
- convene a seminar on faith schools; and
- campaign for local authorities to be required to establish a range of provision for children with behaviour problems.

NUT General Secretary, Steve Sinnott, said:

“Our conference showcased a united NUT, open to new ideas and moving forward. Our policies have been agreed in the context of major challenges; the rewards for their achievement will be significant.”

NUT News 9 - May 06  27/4/06  7:03 pm  Page 1