

# **NUT POLICY ON CLASS SIZES**

## **MINIMUM STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT POLICY**

The Union's Minimum Staffing Establishment Policy includes the following aims:

### **Class Size**

- (a) A maximum class size of 23 in classes consisting wholly or partly of children in their first year of infant education;
- (b) A maximum class size of 20 in respect of nursery classes which should be staffed on the basis of 2 adults (one qualified teacher and one nursery nurse) per 20 children;
- (c) A maximum class size of 18 in practical groups, including GCSE and other classes which involve teacher assessment of pupils;
- (d) Staffing ratios in mainstream and special schools in line with existing conference policy on provision for special educational need and which take account of advice given in DES circular 11/90 and WOED circular 58/90.
- (e) A maximum class size of 21 in respect of classes of mixed age range;
- (f) Staffing establishments in relation to sixth forms to be such as to ensure a pupil/teacher ratio of no worse than 10:1;
- (g) A maximum class size of 26 in all other timetabled classes (i.e. other than those listed above).

### **Cover**

LEAs should employ teams of permanent supply staff which, together with supply teachers engaged on a daily basis, should ensure immediate cover for absent teachers so that other teachers in schools are not required to provide cover.

### **Teacher Support Time**

Teachers should be guaranteed Teaching Support Time equivalent to a minimum of 20 per cent of the normal timetable of the school. Teachers with additional responsibilities, and teachers involved in GCSE work or work involving continuous assessment, should receive additional Teaching Support Time.

## **EXCESSIVE CLASS SIZES**

The Union's policy on class sizes sets out the following limits which, if exceeded, raise the possibility of the Union seeking to enforce these limits through industrial action if the situation cannot be improved by negotiation:

27 in the case of reception classes;

24 in the case of mixed age classes;

20 in the case of practical classes;

15 in the case of classes of pupils needing particular small group or individual attention; and

30 in other cases.