NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

NUT News

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The largest teachers' union
www.teachers.org.uk

Tell the Government league tables must go

School league tables put unacceptable pressure on teachers to teach to the Key Stage 2 tests. They are one of the main barriers to improving teaching and learning for all children. If the tables did not make the tests so high-stakes, schools would not focus so much on preparing for them.

League tables also encourage unfair comparisons between schools based on narrow measurements of achievement. These are influenced by factors beyond the control of schools and teachers.

Government Review

The Government has recognised that there are problems with the current primary assessment and accountability arrangements and has launched a review of them. The review will consider:

- how to ensure that schools are accountable to pupils, parents and taxpayers for the benefit of every child;
- how to give parents good information on the progress of their child and the success of the school;
- how to avoid perverse incentives and reduced focus on productive learning; and
- how to ensure performance information is used appropriately, increasing accountability and avoiding the risk of narrow judgements being made.

This is a vital opportunity for the profession to tell the Government how we think primary assessment and accountability should be reformed.

It is important that as many NUT members as possible respond to the review. The Government may give as much weight to the views of an individual as it does to those of organisations such as the NUT.

When Michael Gove was shadow Education Secretary, he warned that testing at the end of primary school "completely narrows teaching" and wanted to "free the final year for teaching in the broadest sense, in order to ensure that children had access to the broadest curriculum possible."

Mr Gove should act now to free teachers to teach and children to learn.

ACT NOW: Go to /www.teachers.org.uk/assessment for more information on the Government's review and how to respond.

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

"Schools should be about so much more than measuring test results. League tables tell parents nothing about how well each school does with the pupils it has. I urge all members to let the Government know exactly how unfair and damaging the league tables based on high-stakes tests really are."

Our aim – one union for all teachers

Join the NUT See your school representative

www.teachers.org.uk

Just ring to join now

New members' joining hotlines **0845 300 1669** or **020 7380 6369**

Records & subscriptions helpline **0845 300 1666**

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