



To all classroom teacher members

March 2010

Dear Colleague

## **Industrial action to boycott SATs in May 2010**

As a result of the National Executive's decision taken on 24 February 2010, the Union has written to the Secretary of State, Ed Balls, to give notice of a ballot for action.

The action will be to frustrate the administration of the KS2 National Curriculum tests in English and mathematics in 2010. This will not be strike action – pupils will continue to be taught.

Both the NUT and the NAHT will be balloting their head teacher, deputy and assistant head teacher members and other members employed on the leadership pay spine.

Unless you are within this group, the Union is not seeking to ballot you for industrial action. Nevertheless all NUT members have an important role to play in our ongoing educational campaign to end SATs.

The group being balloted is limited to head teachers, who have responsibilities to administer the tests; and others paid on the leadership spine, who may also be asked to undertake such duties. Classroom teacher members are not within the group being balloted as the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) sets out that classroom teachers should not routinely participate in any administration or invigilation arrangements that do not call for the exercise of professional skills and judgement.

Government guidance in the STPCD states: "Teachers should not be given the option to 'choose' to do administrative and clerical work. It is not an appropriate use of teacher time. Head teachers should ensure that administrative and clerical tasks are not carried out by teachers."

We hope that you have an NUT or NAHT head teacher in your school who supports the action and will vote to refuse to administer the tests. Please take the opportunity to express support for the action. Please also explain the situation as outlined in the STPCD.

The science sample tests, which will take place in a limited number of schools, are not included in this action. The DCSF has confirmed that the results of the science tests will only be used for national sampling, not for school accountability. The results will not be provided to Ofsted or local authorities. The ballot for action this year could have been avoided if the Secretary of State had chosen to put in place the same arrangements for English and mathematics.

All members who are to be balloted will be strongly urged to vote 'YES'. All other members are encouraged to remain engaged with the educational campaign.

Yours sincerely

**CHRISTINE BLOWER**  
General Secretary

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