

Council motion on high-stakes testing in primary schools

_____ [NAME OF COUNCIL] welcomes the commitment of the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party to abolish SATs and other high-stakes testing in primary schools.

It notes that:

- 1) Statutory testing in primary schools has increased since 2010 and is increasing further: by 2020, children will be tested in Reception (the Baseline Assessment), Year 1 (the Phonics Screening Check), Year 2 (SATs), Year 4 (the Multiplication Tables Check) and Year 6 (SATs).
- 2) The pressures of statutory assessment contribute to the crisis of teacher morale, workload, recruitment and retention.
- 3) Tests are focussed on the requirements of school accountability rather than on support for children's learning.
- 4) The pressures of testing in primary schools have a detrimental effect on children's mental health.
- 5) Educational research has demonstrated repeatedly that teaching to the test narrows the curriculum and the educational experience of children, focussing on labelling not learning.
- 6) The National Education Union is campaigning to abolish high-stakes primary testing and to halt the introduction of the Reception Baseline Assessment in September 2020.

This council believes that campaigning, by those who work in primary schools, parents and academics, to end the current high-stakes system of primary assessment should be welcomed, in particular the More Than A Score campaign.

_____ [NAME OF COUNCIL] resolves:

- 1) To express its support for campaigns against the current system of primary assessment, including those organised by teacher unions and More Than A Score.
- 2) To call a meeting of trade unions, parents and school governors to discuss the council's position on these matters and to coordinate a response.
- 3) To lobby the Secretary of State for Education to listen to the growing number of voices who are calling for the abolition of high-stakes testing in primary schools.
- 4) To offer support to schools within the area which adopt an alternative approach to assessment (for example by taking the More Than A Score pledge).