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# NO TO BASELINE ASSESSMENT NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

Dear head teacher,

The NEU group at .....  
school believes Baseline assessment should not take place in the next academic year.  
We believe we should not waste even one minute on this test.

Even if schools have fully reopened in September, every hour will be needed to support children starting and returning. Very young children will have missed much practical and emotional preparation for school by not being in nursery, so starting Reception class will be especially challenging for them.

Teachers and teaching assistants will need to focus on giving these children the best start at school, in a way that prioritises their welfare and helps them to feel safe, secure and settled.

The evidence suggests Baseline assessment remains controversial in schools. In research commissioned by the NEU into the pilot of Baseline last September, 83% of teachers said carrying out the test added to their workload and 69% said it had not helped to develop positive relationships with pupils.

A survey of head teachers by the More Than A Score campaign group found 73% were negative about Baseline, seeing it as unnecessary, inaccurate, unfair on children, and another way of placing schools under pressure.

Recently, 2,800 heads, teachers, parents, academics and experts signed a letter to Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, asking him to cancel Baseline next academic year.

More than half of all primary schools did not complete last year's Baseline pilot, meaning the test will be a new experience for them, further adding to the disruption it will cause.

Proceeding with introducing Baseline in this context would be completely wrong and potentially damaging. It is the last thing children and teachers need.

**We would ask you as a school leader to raise your concerns about proceeding with Baseline with the Government and ask ministers to make clear that it will not take place next academic year.**

Thank you

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