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# RECEPTION BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Dear

The Government intends to introduce statutory Baseline Assessment in Reception classes this September. We believe this is not in the interests of children who will be joining our school.

The top priorities of our school are the learning, welfare and wellbeing of pupils who will still be affected by the experience of the pandemic. Baseline Assessment works against these priorities.

We already observe and assess our youngest pupils to identify their needs and support their development. Baseline will not help us do this more effectively. It involves removing children from their new class to test them individually. It will be time-consuming, disruptive and in many cases stressful for children. It will provide no learning benefits for children and give no useful information for teachers. In the words of the British Educational Research Association, it is 'unjustified and wholly unfit for purpose'.

We are calling on the Government to pause the introduction of Baseline in the 2021/22 school year and to consult with educators on a better alternative. Please raise our concerns urgently with the Secretary of State for Education and urge him to halt the introduction of Baseline, in the best interests of our children. We would also like to invite you to visit our school to discuss further the case for pausing Baseline and other formal tests in favour of a focus on education recovery for our pupils. We look forward to hearing from you.

Signed:

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Name of school:

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