



**NAPE**

**National Association for Primary  
Education**

**NAPE National Office  
Moulton College  
Moulton  
Northampton NN3 7RR**

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tel: 01604 647646

email: [nationaloffice@nape.org.uk](mailto:nationaloffice@nape.org.uk)

website: [www.nape.org.uk](http://www.nape.org.uk)

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## **Media Release**

### **11+ Selection for Grammar Schools**

The Government's Green Paper, *Schools which work for everyone*, supports secondary education provided by the 163 remaining grammar schools but is absolutely clear in rejecting "any reintroduction of the binary or tripartite system of the past or a simple expansion of existing selective institutions".

To return to the days of 11+ selection which results in four out of every five young children being denied entry to grammar schools, however much families choose such education for their children, would indeed be a backward step. Even worse, selection is heavily biased against poor children who are much less likely to gain entry. Too often success goes to families who can afford private tutoring or a place at a private school which crams children for the selection examination. Grammar schools educate an elite and are the exact opposite of education which works for everyone.

Comprehensive schools have proved their worth in educating all children irrespective of their backgrounds. It is no wonder that almost all educational opinion is united and unequivocal in opposing a politically driven return to the 11+. The research evidence is strong and is confirmed by international studies undertaken by the OECD. The greater the element of selection the less well an education system is likely to perform.

What then should be done with the existing grammar schools?

Our proposal is that they should be allowed to evolve into academic sixth form colleges. Students choosing academic studies should enter at the age of sixteen. Existing younger pupils at the grammar schools would continue their education undisturbed but there would be no further entry of eleven year olds. Evolutionary change would take five years and the traditions, even the names, of the grammar schools would be preserved.

John Coe  
Information Officer

Email: [nape@onetel.com](mailto:nape@onetel.com)

Tel: 01865 890281