



*National Association for Primary
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Media Release

A Better Way to Check Children's Progress

Increasingly teachers and head teachers are joined by a growing number of parents who are deeply concerned by the adverse impact of national testing on the lives and educational progress of their sons and daughters.

The government claims that standards of achievement are raised by their imposition of harder and harder tests. **The reverse is true.** The harder the test the more schools are forced to devote more wasted time to coaching for the tests and true learning is neglected in order to boost quickly forgotten results on the day. **The curriculum and the quality of young children's lives are seriously damaged and standards are lowered.**

Today this association of teachers and parents is joining the major teacher unions, parents' organisations and other professional associations such as ourselves to work together over coming months to draw on our experience and the findings from research to devise a more appropriate way of evaluating children's progress in their primary years. Then having gained the wholehearted agreement of all concerned, we will seek discussion with ministers and will hope to secure agreement about a better way ahead.

We will work together in order that 2016 is the last year of SATs. Childhood is too precious a time of life to waste on examination preparation. **We will offer a practical and more accurate way of assessing progress which will set children and their families free and raise the quality of primary education.**

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