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## **Media Release**

### **Too Much for the Test Too Little for Children**

The strike by parents of children aged six and seven on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May was a highly significant event in the story of public education.

Spontaneously through social media hundreds of parents came together in a concerted campaign to persuade politicians to stop setting inappropriate written tests to measure educational performance. The message is clear: the tests are unnecessary, trust the teachers to assess progress. The tests and the preparation for them in the classroom cause very considerable stress, childhood is harmed and learning is narrowed and distorted. Parents are eager for their children to learn but equally they want them to be happy and fulfilled at school.

In a very short time some 50,000 parents supported the petition presented to the Secretary of State for Education. Up and down the country, from Truro to Birmingham and Leeds, the children were kept out of school to spend the day playing and learning with their parents. More than 400 events were organised to make the day memorable and to press home the determination of the families that the government should change its policy.

Nicky Morgan and her advisers should listen to this unprecedented expression of parental opinion in support of teachers and children. The tests have failed to bring success to very many children and, what is even worse, they cause harm. Teachers and parents now speak with one voice --- It is time to get rid of them.

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