
PRIMARY SCHOOL MOTION ON BASELINE TESTING

We note the Government's decision to reintroduce Baseline Assessment within the first few weeks of school in Reception.

We note that Baseline Assessment was introduced to Reception in 2015. This involved schools opting for one of six providers to carry out the assessment. A majority of schools opted to use the assessment produced by Early Excellence, which was observation based. The NUT ran campaigns against these tests: '4 too young to test' and 'Better without Baseline'. The assessment was then abandoned in 2016 as it was found to be unworkable.

We believe that the Government's new plan to reintroduce Baseline Assessment, beginning with a voluntary pilot in 2019, is as wrong and as flawed as it was in previous attempts.

We note that this time there is no attempt to use an observation-based model but the assessment will involve a set of questions answered on a tablet and overseen by the teacher.

We note comments from previous providers, especially Early Excellence who have described the DfE's current proposal as "ideological and inept".

We believe that as well as disrupting the settling-in process for children, this test will place a workload burden on reception teachers and support staff at the start of the year. Reception teachers carry out ongoing assessments of the children they teach, through observations, in order to plan effectively for learning.

At XXXXX School we already rigorously track the progress of each child. We report this termly and the data is analysed and used to improve outcomes and predict future attainment. At the end of Reception, a detailed profile is submitted to [the LA] showing the attainment of each child against the Early Learning Goals. We do not feel that the Baseline Tests will inform our assessment or help the school to track or predict outcomes for children.

We note that the sole purpose of Baseline Assessment is not to support children in Reception but to provide data by which schools can be held accountable seven years later at KS2.

We believe that if enough schools refuse to take part in the voluntary pilot in 2019 it will force the Government to rethink its proposal.

We therefore agree to:

- i) ask our headteacher and governors to refuse to take part in the Baseline pilot in 2019;
- ii) support and publicise the More Than A Score campaign and join in local activities aimed at building the campaign.

School Name: _____

Date of meeting: _____

Number of members present: _____

