

Why are the NUT and NAHT campaigning against SATs?

Because:

- They are stressful for children, parents and teachers.
- They are an unreliable way of assessing pupils' progress.
- There is an unacceptably high level of inaccuracy in test results – teacher assessment has been proved to be more reliable.
 - They can narrow what is taught at primary school, squeezing out time for creative subjects and sports.
 - They encourage “teaching to the test”.
 - They undermine the morale of too many children.
- Unreliable data is used to unfairly judge school performance, putting colleagues' jobs at risk.

*The rest of the UK does not have SATs.
We don't believe that England needs them.*

Why does the Government want to keep SATs and why do the NAHT and NUT want to end them?

The Government says we need SATs to give parents, teachers and the public the information they need about the progress of children and primary schools. The NUT and NAHT believe that parents can get much better information from their child's teacher, as SATs do not assess children's achievement across the whole curriculum. Secondary schools also know this, which is why they do not trust the Key Stage 2 test results and often retest children when they enter Year 7. Key Stage 2 tests are used to produce league tables of schools. The NUT and NAHT believe these league tables of test data are misleading. Many good schools are in the bottom half of these tables because, for example, they are serving disadvantaged communities.

What damage does SATs do to schools and school leaders?

Research has shown that up to 25 per cent of pupils' levels may be incorrect by one level. The current system is therefore demonstrably inaccurate, and imposes increased workload in the relentless preparation for the tests, and the subsequent checking and re-marking.

So what's the alternative to SATs?

The NUT and NAHT believe that assessment at Key Stages 1 and 2 should be based on teacher assessment which is moderated, to make sure standards of assessment are the same within and between schools. There should also be a national sampling test system, as in KS3, to provide information about national standards in English, mathematics and science so that trends in performance can be monitored over time.

What can I do?

You can help the campaign by:

- Voting “yes” if we are forced to ballot.
- Raising the profile of the campaign with everyone in your staff room.
- Asking your NUT and NAHT school representatives to organise a joint meeting in school to explain why the two unions are campaigning against SATs. Invite other members of staff, parents and governors.
- Asking parents and staff to sign our petitions against SATs, which you can download from the NUT and NAHT websites or by asking your school representatives for copies.
- Visiting or writing to your MP asking them to support the campaign and sign Early Day Motion 685 entitled ‘Assessment and Testing in Schools’. The NUT and NAHT websites have materials to help you do this.

For more information go to
www.teachers.org.uk or www.naht.org.uk

Will abolishing SATs increase my workload?

Both the NUT and NAHT are committed to reducing workload for teachers and head teachers, not increasing it. Replacing SATs by Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) would not be acceptable. APP is voluntary not statutory. Neither union will sanction an alternative form of assessment that will increase workload.

Is boycotting SATs illegal?

If the NUT and NAHT ballot to take action, it will be on the basis of a lawful trade dispute. Any boycott of SATs would not be a strike. It would mean that NUT and NAHT members would refuse to prepare pupils for and administer Key Stage 1 and 2 National Curriculum tests, leaving them free to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the real learning needs of children.

NUT SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Calling all new and existing school representatives

We will shortly be inviting school representatives to local and national training sessions to assist them in their role. If there is no rep in your school would you be prepared to be the named individual who receives information from the NUT to display in the staffroom or perhaps support members in your school with our help?

Check the school rep page on www.glosnut.co.uk to find out more about what is involved in representing the NUT members at your school.

Local Association website: www.glosnut.co.uk

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