



NAPE

National Association for Primary Education

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

tel: 01604 647646

email: nationaloffice@nape.org.uk

website: www.nape.org.uk

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Media Release

A Defeat for 11+ Selection

This association welcomes the government's abandonment of its intention to repeal the ban on the establishment of new selective (grammar) schools. Plans to consult on the opening of such schools would have shown how firmly professional and parental opinion is opposed to such a retrograde move.

We can now look forward with confidence to reforming the secondary schools in the 20% of local authorities which cling to the 11+ past. It is time to offer equality of educational opportunity to all children and we must seek cross party agreement to begin a move towards the creation of a fully comprehensive system of secondary schools.

Comprehensive schools have proved their worth in educating all children irrespective of their backgrounds. The research evidence is now irrefutable 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.

Our proposal is that grammar schools should be allowed to evolve into academic sixth form colleges. Students choosing academic studies would enter at the age of sixteen. Existing pupils at the 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

Tel: 01865 890281