



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

Pause for Reflection and Review

This association of teachers and parents with a first concern for the quality of primary education welcomes the undertaking given by the Secretary of State for Education that there will be no additional statutory tests or assessment for primary schools for the rest of the current parliament.

This much needed pause in the stream of political initiatives and interventions in teaching which have caused damage to the lives and learning of too many children and the wellbeing of their parents and teachers will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on what has happened to education in the early and primary years.

It is our fervent hope that Damian Hinds will take advantage of the coming months to reconsider the ill advised intention to introduce the baseline assessment of four year olds in their first six weeks in school. The widespread and concerted advice of practitioners is that such testing will not provide a measure which can be validly compared with later progress and that the testing is likely to have a profoundly adverse impact upon the education of young children at such a vitally important period of their development.

The intention to bring a high level group of sector experts and teachers together for a review of the kind of data and evidence schools are collecting is also welcomed. The review of current practice which is related to the deepening crisis in teacher recruitment and retention must continue to have a high priority and, as always, we are ready to be of assistance.

John Coe
Information Officer, National Association for Primary Education

Email: nape@onetel.com

Tel: 01865 890281