



NAPE

National Association for Primary Education

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Media Release

Testing Data

Simon Jenkins is to be applauded for taking a stand on the testing environment our schools find themselves in.

NAPE is also very pleased to hear that Ofsted plan to become less dependent on data in their inspections of schools.

It has long been recognised by most of us in education that learning and teaching are about more than numbers, that children and teachers are individuals who thrive best when they are treated as such.

The next step is for the DfE to recognise this and bring an end to the business of creating the data through their testing regime. The question has to be asked, whether we want our children to learn or be the fodder for statistical pronouncements?

The issue of assessment is a serious business for schools, who recognise the value of knowing how well the children in their care are progressing and the value of sharing this in a positive way with parents. It seems that only politicians think there is value in the use of data to rank schools and to make judgements on the careers of teachers. A continuing process which supports children's learning is the only real value that schools can give.

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