

Dear Colleagues and Parents,

As academics concerned with school-based education in England, we believe that the revised National Curriculum will erode educational standards.

The lists of spellings, facts and rules will not develop children's ability to think or encourage critical understanding and creativity. It takes no account of children's age and will place pressure on teachers to rely on rote learning without understanding. Inappropriate demands will lead to failure and demoralisation.

Little account is taken of children's potential interests or of the need for young children to relate abstract ideas to their experience, lives and activity.

The new curriculum is narrow and unbalanced. Excessive detail in Maths, Science and some aspects of English leaves little space for other learning. The curriculum for History is ill-conceived and has already created widespread concern.

We call upon the Government to withdraw this proposal and to engage in professional discussion with professional bodies.