

LAMBETH COUNCIL PERFORMS WELL IN SATS BUT LAMBETH TEACHERS SAY NO TO SATS



The National Education Union, which represents the majority of teachers in Lambeth, polled 54,000 of its members in the last month, and the results revealed that a staggering 97% of teachers support scrapping SATs and ‘high stakes’ tests in primary schools.

In Lambeth the majority of members responded saying that they support a sensible alternative to the tests. A majority of respondents said they would refuse to implement them.

The results are now being analysed and the union’s National Executive will discuss them on Saturday 13 July before deciding the next steps in the campaign to change the current assessment regime.

These figures come the same week as the SATs results, which show Lambeth fares well in the tests. Lambeth teachers work hard and results released on Tuesday showed that 70% of Lambeth 10 and 11 year olds met the expected standard in their SATs. This compares to a national figure of 64%.

However teachers point to the impact these tests have on young children’s mental health. Government figures show a significant increase in the number of social emotional and mental health (SEMH) incidences in primary schools.

Sara Tomlinson, secretary of Lambeth NEU and campaigner with anti-SATs organisation More Than A Score, commented:

The Department for Education’s announcement comes at a heavy price for schools, teachers and, most of all, pupils.

Over a third of year 6 pupils have been told that they have ‘not reached the expected standard’ based on a very narrow set of tests, taken under pressurised exam conditions. Branding children as failures just before they start secondary school risks turning them off learning altogether.

James McAsh, President of Lambeth NEU and Brixton primary school teacher commented:

SATs and high-stakes tests encourage teachers and schools to take the wrong decisions; to prioritise teaching to the test over holistic learning and children’s welfare.

“Teachers have had enough. We want to prepare our pupils for a fulfilling and enjoyable life, not the exam factory. We refuse to be complicit in creating needless stress and harm to the children in our care.

by James McAsh, President of Lambeth NEU.