

# What can you do?

- Join the More Than a Score campaign
- Ask your head teacher to hold a meeting with teachers and other parents to share ideas about the kind of schooling we really want. There are lots of resources on the More than a Score website, including films about what's wrong now and how to do things differently.
- Hold your own event with other parents.
- Write to your MP telling them your concerns.
- Find out what other parents are getting up to.  
[www.facebook.com/RescueOurSchools](http://www.facebook.com/RescueOurSchools)  
<https://letthekidsbekids.wordpress.com>  
[www.fairfundingforallschools.org](http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org)  
[www.facebook.com/saveourschoolsuk](http://www.facebook.com/saveourschoolsuk)

*More than a Score is an alliance of parents, teachers, heads and experts in primary education and child mental health.*

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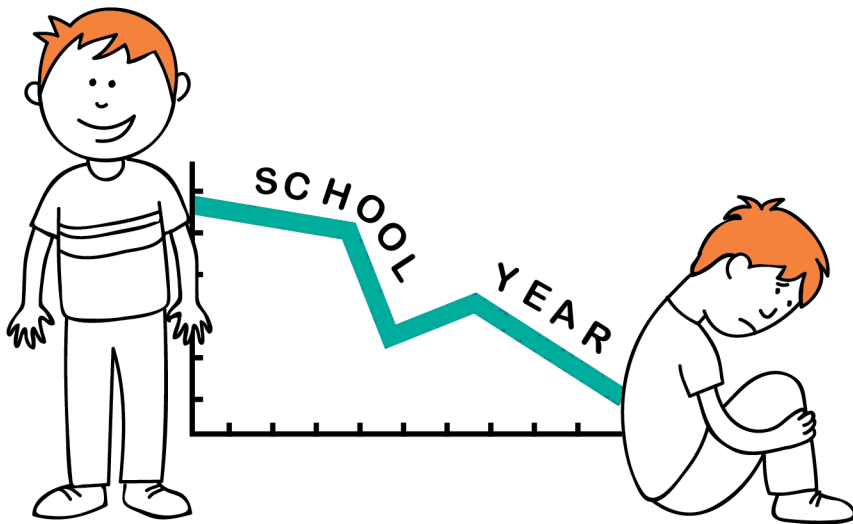
# more than a score

Five things you might  
not know about primary  
school tests and how  
they affect your child

# The Government uses lots of tests to decide how your children are doing at school, and it is planning more new ones.

**Assessment** is important for teachers and parents. It is helpful to find out how your child is doing and how best to support their learning.

But the SATs tests, phonics check and proposed new “baseline” test on four-year-olds are not fit for purpose. Many experts agree that they are testing the wrong things in the wrong way. This damages children’s education. Pressure to teach to the test is narrowing the curriculum and causing stress in children and teachers<sup>1</sup>. **In the early years, testing too much, too soon is pushing play out of young children’s lives. This needs to change.**



<sup>1</sup> [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeduc/682/68202.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeduc/682/68202.htm)

# Here's what you need to know:

1. The Government wants to test all four-year-olds in the first term of Reception. They say this “**baseline**” test will help them predict which children will do well six years later when they take Key Stage 2 SATS.

**No tests of 4-year-olds can accurately predict what they will be able to do later on.**

2. The Government says the **Phonics Check in Year 1** tells them how well your child is learning to read.

**Sounding out words, including many nonsense words, does not add up to reading.**

3. The Government says **the tests on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG)** are more reliable than teachers' assessments of children's writing.

**The SPAG test asks children to memorise grammar terms that most parents don't understand and that do not help children write well.**

4. The Government says **Baseline tests and SATs scores in literacy and numeracy** allow them to judge how well your school is doing.

**Parents, children and teachers know that there is much more to a good education than passing tests.**

5. The Government says their way of judging schools will improve the education system.

**But many parents and teachers believe that the assessment system is broken.**

Too much testing and too much 'teaching to the test' is leaving too little room for children to develop as confident and creative learners and thinkers. Yet these are the skills we need for the future.