



ORGANISE YOUR OWN BIG SATS SIT-IN

What is the Big SATs Sit-in?

The Big SATs Sit-in will show just how inappropriate are the SATs papers taken by our 10 and 11-year-olds in Year 6.

Throughout their final year of primary school, our children spend their time focusing just on English and maths and missing out on a full and varied curriculum. The tests they sit at the end of that year are the outcome of a system that is obsessed with league tables. It treats our children as data points and denies them a stimulating education at a critical point in their young lives.

It's not surprising more than a third of our children fail the tests – being branded as “not meeting expected standards” is an appalling way to prepare for secondary school.

To show the reality of these tests, we're giving grown-ups the chance to try them for themselves, under exam conditions, on Wednesday 5 December. Groups of parents will sit a 20 minute test to see just how pressurised the SATs experience is. We hope that you can join us to spread the word that the current system isn't fit for purpose.

Getting involved

We'd love you to host your own SATs Sit-in event to show your support and spread the word. Here's a step-by-step guide to making it happen.

Let us know

Email us at campaign@morethanascore.org to let us know where your event will be. That will mean we can send you updates and track your progress.

Date

The Big SATs Sit-in will take place on the morning of Wednesday 5 December. We hope you can join with parents across the country then, but if you'd like to organise your event for a different day, just let us know.

Where

You can hold your SATs Sit-in wherever you'd like. If you think you'll have sufficient numbers of people attending, you might want to book a local hall or community centre. Your children's school may also be willing to host your event - ask the headteacher what they think.

If you think you'll have a small number of people, you can hold your event anywhere, even round your kitchen table. All you need are a table or tables, chairs and pens and pencils.

Who

Please invite anyone who you think might be interested in trying the SATs paper for themselves. We understand that many parents will have to be at work on a weekday; perhaps you could ask grandparents or other carers to come along?

Why not invite your local councillors or even your MP to your event? Look on your Council's website to find the names of your councillors. It's easy to write to your MP, using the **Write To Them** website.

It's easy, and free, to send invitations and track participants using **Eventbrite**

How

We will email you the 20 minute test paper, and answers, in advance with instructions included.

To make the experience just like real-life SATs, we suggest you follow exam conditions. This is what your children will be asked to do, so:

- Don't let anyone see the test papers before you begin the test.
- Be VERY strict about the timing of the test.
- No calculators for the maths questions! And no Googling the answers!
- No talking! And no help from the adjudicator!

At the end of the test, you can mark each other's papers and see how you measure up.

Share

We want to use the Big SATs Sit-in as a chance to tell the world about SATs. Your local press might be interested in coming along to your event or writing about the story and you can get in touch to invite them along. You can use the template press release below to send to your local media. Simply copy-and-paste the text into an email and include your details where indicated. You can find the contact details for your local media on their websites.

You can tell people about the event in advance. Below are some suggested messages. Please use our hashtags in all your social media posts:

#BigSATsSitIn
#morethanascore

Filming/photographs

We'd love to create a record of the day so please share your photographs and videos with us. You can send them to our **Facebook page** or our **Twitter page**

When you are filming with an iPhone or smart phone, please follow these instructions:

- Film in landscape mode (horizontally)
- Film for at least 30 seconds
- Interview your participants about their experience. Before they sit the paper, ask them how they are feeling. Afterwards ask them how they scored and what they thought of the experience. They should speak direct to camera for at least 30 seconds.

This will help us create a compilation of videos which we'll share with you after the event.

TEMPLATE PRESS RELEASE FOR THE BIG SATS SIT-IN

Parents join Big SATs Sit-in to protest testing regime

Parents in [YOUR TOWN] will join the Big SATs Sit-in on Wednesday 5 December to protest against the way primary school pupils are tested. They will sit sample SATs papers – under exam conditions! – and see for themselves the type of questions their children spend a year preparing for.

The [YOUR TOWN] Big SATs Sit-in will take place on Wednesday 5 December at [TIME] at [VENUE]. Media are invited to join us and try the test too.

Similar events will be taking place across the country to highlight the absurd – and absurdly difficult – questions 10 and 11-year-olds will be sitting in the Spring. These tests will be the culmination of many months of preparation in the classroom when classes become focused on just English and maths, while other subjects are sacrificed.

[INSERT YOUR NAME OR NAME OF ANOTHER SPOKESPERSON] comments, “SATs place a huge burden on pupils, teachers and parents. Months are spent preparing for the tests at the expense of a varied and interesting curriculum and these pressurised tests are the result. The questions are as absurd as the system itself.”

It’s not surprising more than a third of our children fail the tests – being branded as “not meeting the expected standards” is an appalling way to prepare for secondary school.

The Big SATs Sit-in has been organised by More Than A Score, an alliance of parents, teachers, heads and education experts, working together to call for change to the Government’s policy on standardised testing. They point out that children in England are amongst the most tested in the world.

[SPOKESPERSON NAME] continues, “SATs are supposed to be a way of measuring schools’ progress but it’s not working out that way. Teachers are under a huge amount of pressure and this means they tend to spend too much time focusing on a narrow curriculum and ‘teaching to the test’. Pupils miss out on a whole range of subjects and don’t have the chance to fully enjoy their final year of primary school.

“Our children have become data points in a system which serves no purpose other than judging schools against each other.”

More Than A Score is calling for a complete overhaul of the current testing regime. For more information and ways to take action, visit www.morethanascore.org.uk

Ends

For more information: [INSERT YOUR DETAILS HERE]

For more information about More Than A Score: press@morethanascore.org.uk

SUGGESTED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FOR THE BIG SATS SIT-IN

Below are some suggested posts that you could use on your Facebook or Twitter pages. You can amend these, if you prefer, but please use our suggested hashtags whenever you can.

Do you know what's really in the SATs tests taken by our 10 and 11-year-olds? I'm hosting a Big SATs Sit-in to find out. Join us on Wednesday 5 December and try the paper for yourself. Let me know if you can make it!

#BigSATsSitIn #morethanascore

We're ready for the Big SATs Sit-In! What sort of questions do our children sit in Year 6? We're going to find out! **#BigSATsSitIn #morethanascore**

Can you believe these questions? Imagine sitting them at the age of 11! Wouldn't you rather be getting ready for secondary school? **#BigSATsSitIn #morethanascore**

What a waste of time! These are the type of questions our 10 and 11-year-olds spend a year preparing for. It's not fair and we all agree - let's change the system!

#BigSATsSitIn #morethanascore

Now we've taken the dreaded SATs test, we all agree: our children should be spending their time doing much more than preparing for these questions!

#BigSATsSitIn #morethanascore

