

# **DROP SATS 2021 – HEADS' STATEMENT**

**Along with heads, teachers and parents throughout the country, I do not believe SATs, phonics or the times tables check should go ahead in 2020/2021.**

**These formal tests are not the way to assess the effects of Covid on young children and schools. We will be carrying out low-pressure, teacher-led assessments and these will provide all the information we need to see where learning gaps are, how to bridge them and how to ensure smooth transition to secondary school.**

**Teacher-led tests will enable us to prioritise the safety, mental health and well-being of our pupils, some of whom will have experienced trauma and even bereavement. We want our children to thrive in school after such a long period away, and start to love learning again. We want to teach a rich, broad and stimulating curriculum, not spend our time cramming children for tests in phonics, English and maths.**

**Schools should be held accountable. However, basing our performance on one-size-fits-all tests taken by young children in the year following a pandemic would only produce meaningless data and put unnecessary pressure on children who have already been through enough.**

**It would be wholly ineffective and morally wrong.**

**For the sake of our children, I'm calling on the government to cancel SATs and other government tests in the 2020/21 school year.**

**#DropPhonics2020**

**#DropSATs2021**