

#TellPearson

Education should not be run for profit

Today teachers from the UK and the United States are joining forces with global justice campaigners to lobby shareholders at the annual general meeting of global education corporation Pearson.

We are here to #TellPearson that we want:

- Free, high quality, not-for-profit education for children in both the global north and global south.
- An end to high-stakes testing which generates profits for edu-business at the expense of children's education.

#ChildrenDeserveBetter

Why Pearson?

Pearson operates in over 70 countries, influencing governments, education policy and school life through lobbying and funding of free-market think tanks and business pressure groups.

In the global south, Pearson is part of a global effort by 'edu-business' to profit from so-called 'low-fee' private schools, exploiting the legitimate desire of some of the world's poorest families to gain access to education.

In England, Pearson runs a for-profit exam board and administers and marks SATs tests taken by all children at the end of primary school. Our children and young people are among the most tested in the world and a growing body of evidence confirms they feel more pressured than those in other countries.

In the United States, Pearson's systematic monitoring of the social media accounts of parents, teachers and even students to ensure 'test security' was recently exposed, and characterised as "spying" on children by many in the media.

We are here to #TellPearson that:

- Education is a human and civil right and a public good, not an opportunity for business to profit.
- Pearson must end its involvement with fee-paying private schools in the global south.
- Pearson must stop all practices that promote and support the obsession with high-stakes testing.
- Pearson must negotiate with teachers' unions to secure agreement on the appropriate role of edu-business in education.

#ChildrenDeserveBetter