

FOR EDUCATION AGAINST SATS

WE WANT the SATs tests scrapped because they are bad for our children, bad for schools and bad for education.

If the teachers boycott work for these tests and the tests themselves, they will be helping our children.

Instead of boosting standards, the tests (taken now by 1.8 million children a year at 7, 11 and 14 years old) make teachers "teach to the test" and stop real learning. We want children to be developing their talents and discovering the world around them. We don't want them to be crammed into an artificial testing regime.

It can't be right that children can take up to 105 tests during their first 11 years.

So much time is spent on preparing for and taking the tests to achieve national targets that many other enjoyable and beneficial learning activities are reduced or cut out entirely.

The SATs tests don't teach our children to understand. They divide them into those who are good at a particularly useless sort of exam and those who are not. Our children deserve better.

The SATs were introduced by the Tories in 1992.

Since then they have caused huge levels of stress among children and helped to turn large parts of education into a boring routine. They make school a frightening place for far too many children.

A survey by the Childline charity found that the pressure of tests is a major reason why children as young as six suffer from stress and, in some cases, mental illness.

All the evidence shows that far from improving children's education, compulsory national testing is doing harm. A survey in the *Times Educational Supplement* found that 11 year olds had got better at passing the literacy test but worse at actually reading books!

In Wales the Assembly has scrapped tests



Picture: Jess Hurd www.reportdigital.co.uk

for seven year olds. Since then inspectors have found RISING standards in schools.

These tests are no help to our children's education. As parents we all find out more about our children's progress from the teachers, not from exam results. SATs are not about improving standards. They are useful only for league tables which set school against school and lead to misleading statistics about how well schools are doing.

Tests are also the basis for selection and some children being labelled as "failures" almost before they have begun their education. Fee-paying private schools do not have to force the children into SATs. If they were any good the rich would have got their hands on them long ago!

Let's start campaigning alongside teachers to get rid of the tests and demand real education for our children.

SEVEN REASONS TO SUPPORT THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

- 1 Tax the rich to fund public services
- 2 Stop privatisation & renationalise the rail
- 3 Stop foundation hospitals
- 4 Defend council housing & comprehensive education
- 5 Stop attacks on asylum seekers & fight racism
- 6 Stop Bush & Blair's war drive
- 7 Put people before profit

JOIN THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

- I want to know more about the Socialist Alliance
- I want to help with the Socialist Alliance campaign
- I want to join the Socialist Alliance. Membership for 2003 is £24 (£6 unwaged)
- I want to make a donation to the Socialist Alliance election fund

Name.....

Address

..... Postcode.....

Phone number Union

E-mail

Please return to Socialist Alliance, Wickham House, 10 Cleveland Way, London E1 4TR.

Please make any cheques payable to Socialist Alliance.

