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THE CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY REVIEW

Submission to the Secretary of State's Expert Group on Testing and Assessment

Testing, assessment, standards, quality and accountability are major aspects of the Cambridge Primary Review, a three-year comprehensive enquiry into the condition and future of English primary education.

The Review will publish its final report in spring 2009 and so at this time it is not in a position to deliver its formal conclusions and recommendations about the matters within the Expert Group's remit.

However:

1. The Review wishes to submit as evidence five of its specially-commissioned surveys of published research and official data. Between them these
 - review the national and international evidence on trends over time in educational standards in the primary phase (reports 4/1, 4/2);
 - critically examine the prevailing concepts of assessment and testing and the procedures in recent and current use in England, assessing their strengths and weaknesses and proposing alternatives (reports 3/4, 4/1);
 - compare England's assessment system with those in 20 other countries (report 3/1);
 - evaluate the published evidence on the impact of assessment reform and practice in England since 1988 (report 3/2).
2. The Review gives notice that it would welcome the opportunity to give evidence in person on these and related matters.
3. Once the Review's final report is published, this will be submitted as additional evidence to the Expert Group.

The five research/data surveys which we submit at this stage are as follows:

- *Standards and Quality in English Primary Schools Over Time: the national evidence* (Primary Review Interim Report 4/1) Peter Tymms and Christine Merrell, University of Durham. ISBN 978-1-906478-01-8.
- *Standards in English Primary Education: the international evidence* (Primary Review Interim Report 4/2) Chris Whetton, Graham Ruddock and Liz Twist, National Foundation for Educational Research. ISBN 978-1-906478-02-5.
- *The Quality of Learning: assessment alternatives for primary education* (Primary Review Interim Report 3/4) Wynne Harlen, University of Bristol. ISBN 978-1-906478-03-2.

- *Curriculum and Assessment Policy: England and other countries* (Primary Review Interim Report 3/1) Kathy Hall, National University of Ireland, and Kamil Øzerk, University of Oslo. ISBN 978-1-906478-18-6
- *The Trajectory and Impact of National Reform: curriculum and assessment in English primary schools* (Primary Review Interim Report 3/2) Dominic Wyse, University of Cambridge, Elaine McCreery and Harry Torrance, Manchester Metropolitan University. ISBN 978-1-906478-22-3

We enclose copies of the full reports, together with briefings. These may also be downloaded from the Review's website, www.primaryreview.org.uk.

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