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CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY REVIEW

Commenting on the findings of Robin Alexander's Primary Review, published today, Christine Blower, Acting General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Europe's largest teaching union, said;

"It is a matter of real concern that that the Government is keeping Robin Alexander's review at arms length. His proposals for the primary curriculum have depth, credibility and, above all, respond to the realities of the primary classroom.

"I cannot understand why Alexander and Jim Rose should have been kept apart when children's future learning and creativity are at stake.

"Alexander's proposals for replacing the current curriculum with a set of aims and domains are imaginative and his recognition that there has to be a local dimension is a big step forward for schools oppressed by an overloaded top down curriculum.

"However, what he describes as 'the elephant in the curriculum' remains. Any reform will be distorted by our current regime of high stakes testing.

"Under this regime, I fear for his proposal of 30% of the curriculum to be given to schools. Schools are more likely to continue to respond to the requirements of the tests and Ofsted.

"It is vital that primary schools are trusted to develop the whole curriculum with the Government just setting a framework. That requires the Government to take the giant step of moving away from imposing on schools to trusting them. Regrettably, we can see no moves in this direction."

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