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Thursday, 22 October 2009

# The Bolton News


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## NEWS

### Start-at-6 school call gets Bolton NUT backing

5:10pm Saturday 17th October 2009

THE Government's refusal to raise the "school" starting age to six has been described as a "wasted opportunity" by a teacher's union.

Assistant secretary of the Bolton-branch of the National Union of Teacher, Julia Simpkin said: "Why commission a report if you are going to dismiss the proposals.

"This is a wasted opportunity and will have left a lot of teachers disappointed."

The Cambridge Primary Review found children respond better to play-based learning at a young age and said there was no evidence to suggest it would hold them back in later life."

She added: "This proposal does not mean that children will not be in a structured environment. It means they will learn through structured play."

Chairman of the review, Dame Gillian Pugh, said introducing children to too formal a curriculum before they are ready can damage their development.

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