

Dear Sir/Madam,

LET OUR KIDS BE KIDS

I am writing to explain why _____ will be absent from school on Tuesday 3rd May.

A great number of parents nationwide are growing extremely concerned by the attitude taken by the Government towards the education of our children. We feel strongly that initiatives such as constant and early testing and academisation are being implemented without due consideration for the implications, and that as a result our children face unnecessary testing and a curriculum that limits enjoyment and real understanding.

It would seem that currently our children are seen merely as numbers to the government; data on a page to be assessed. But that is not the case. These are our children and they are individuals.

What we ask is that teachers be allowed the autonomy to teach our children in the way they know will develop an enthusiasm for learning, wonder of the world and a real, embedded understanding of the skills they will need in the future. We want our children to be allowed to enjoy learning and to develop a lifelong passion for it rather than feeling they are stifled and demotivated through continuous and unnecessary testing.

It seems that we have reached a point where action needs to be taken; we are aware that some teaching unions will be balloting members with a view to boycott the upcoming 'SATS' and hope that you and your colleagues will be a part of this – an action that would receive huge backing from parents across the UK. However, we also feel that it is time that parents join teachers in taking a stand. These are our children and we must stand up for their rights.

As such, a day of protest by parents, 'LET OUR KIDS BE KIDS', is supporting the actions of parents who choose to withdraw their children from school on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 for a day of 'fun learning' in opposition to the National Curriculum tests. This we hope will send a message to the Government about the serious concerns held by so many parents with regard to the prescriptive methods currently used to teach our children. This will likewise send the message that we are fully prepared to boycott the upcoming tests also.

We also hope that this will demonstrate to teachers the support available to them from parents across the country. This is NOT an attack on teachers for whom we have the greatest respect; instead we want this protest to demonstrate the trust that we have in the teaching profession and our desire, surely the same as your own, that teachers be allowed to teach effectively and without constant constraint in order to embed a life-long love of learning in our children.

These exceptional circumstances I feel provide a worthy reason for _____'s absence and one which I hope you feel able to endorse fully.

Best wishes,

Kind regards,

<https://letthekidsbekids.wordpress.com/>