

End academic selection!

Supporting meaningful choice in education



This morning, thousands of Primary 7 children will be sitting the first paper of the 2008 transfer test.

We sincerely hope that this is the last year in which young children, their families and their teachers will have to undergo such a stressful, divisive and increasingly pointless test.

We the undersigned, trade unionists, school teachers and principals, educationalists, parents, business professionals, students, classroom assistants, caretakers and other educational professionals, agree:

- **Selection at the age of 11 is unfair to children, breeds social inequality and is inefficient for the future needs of our young people, economy and society**
- **There is a compelling case for better alternatives offering meaningful choice for all second level students and schools.**
- **The time has come for a decision to be made, one based on the common good and not the preservation of ideals which are cherished by some and yet leave too many children behind.**

The people of Northern Ireland deserve a greater legacy from our schools. That legacy must be an education system which can recognise and nurture the talent of all of our children.

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Dr Margaret Ward, Women's Resource and Development Agency
Miriam Titterton, Development Worker Stephen Nolan, Trademark Frances Dowds
Inez McCormack, Chairperson Participation and Practice of Rights Project Liam Maskey Jim Deery
Manus McGuire Rita Wild - parent Deirdre Ashe, Green Shoot Productions
Dr Felim O hAdhmaill Martin Lynch, playwright Barry McKee, West Armagh Consortium
Carey Ann Clarke Pat McCartan Staff at Pat Finucane Centre, Derry and Newry
Joe Law, Trademark. Daisy Mules (Teacher 33 years) Sandra McDermott Annie Campbell
Mary Kay Mullan - Psychotherapist Mary Nelis George Row, ex-University Lecturer
Aiden Barkley Wendy Patterson Dr Diana Gossrau-Breen Dermot Mc Cluskey, Disability Action
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Colm Barton, Bogside & Brandywell Initiative Conor Gilmore Peter O'Neill
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Grainne McClean Rosie Doherty, Gallighy Women's Group Mary Enright
Sharon Heggarty Laura McCartney Dymna McGlade and Trevor Fuller
Ursula and Caoimhe Fuller. Colm Cavanagh Sean Collins Sharon Austin Rosie Burrows
Liam McBrinn Peter Collins Sharon Gilchrist Sarah McGeough M Fox Ellen McVea
Moira Connolly, Fáilte Feirste Thiar Bronagh McCauley Deirdre Campbell Kevin Campbell
Hairy Deeny Jennifer McCullough Baroness May Blood



This petition is organised and paid for by the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and affiliated unions in the education sector.

Change for Children