

To: Chairs of Governing Bodies participating in Key Stage 2 Assessment Tests

cc: All Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies of all other schools **(for information only)**

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Dear Colleague

### **Key Stage 2 SATS – NAHT & NUT Industrial Action**

You will no doubt be aware of the decision of the NAHT and NUT to take industrial action in relation to the administration of this year's Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests.

Any industrial action that is taken has the potential to cause distress for parents, teachers, pupils, governors and other members of the school community who may be affected.

Mindful of the legal and contractual duties in relation to these tests, I am writing to you with advice on how the governing body should respond to this industrial action. This advice is set out in a number of steps or stages on the attached sheet.

The Local Authority, of course, has a more direct role as employer of staff in community schools (although the majority of employer functions are performed by the Governing Body) and, in that regard, this advice is aimed primarily at our community schools. We have however circulated this to all relevant Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools who may wish to consider this advice.

Governing Bodies should not respond positively to any request that they support this action, as they, alongside the Headteacher, have a statutory duty to ensure the tests take place. You will see the same advice from the National Governors' Association in a document referred to below.

I have attached to this communication a number of documents, which you may find informative and which may help answer questions you may have, as follows:-

1. A letter from the Secretary of State (with accompanying advice/briefing)
2. Advice from the National Governors Association

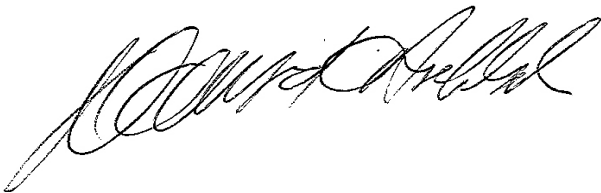
3. Advice we have received from the Local Government Employers' Organisation
4. A model letter to issue to the Headteacher (and/or other members of the leadership group) if you are advised that they intend to support the boycott of the KS2 SATS.

We understand that the industrial action may be subject to a challenge from the Government and if this happens we will update you and our information on the Ealing Grid for Learning as soon as find out.

I have copied this letter to all Headteachers so that they are aware of this advice, including that from the National Governors' Association and the Local Government Employers' Organisation.

If you do have any query about this matter please do not hesitate to contact Mark Nelson, Head of Schools HR at [mnelson@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:mnelson@ealing.gov.uk) or 0208 825 9478.

Yours sincerely



David Archibald  
**Executive Director for Children and Adults**