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Sam Gyimah MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education

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Ms Alison Borthwick
Chair of the Joint Primary Committee
Association of Teachers of Mathematics and The Mathematical Association
259 London Road
Leicester
LE2 3BE

14 July 2015

Dear Ms Borthwick,

Thank you for your letter of 25 June, addressed to the Secretary of State, about the introduction of the reception baseline and the removal of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile in September 2016. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I want to assure you that the reception baseline is just one element of assessment, which will still sit within teachers' broader ongoing assessments of children's development and progress to ensure they are ready for year one. The reception baseline is designed to assess the knowledge and understanding of children at the start of reception in areas such as recognising letters and counting numbers.

Although there are no plans at this time to revisit the content of the EYFS early learning goals, the EYFS will continue to be the statutory framework. Ofsted will continue to assess schools on whether they meet the requirements of the EYFS as part of their inspection framework.

You also requested a meeting to discuss this issue. Unfortunately, due to heavy diary pressures, I am unable to accept your invitation at this time.

Thank you for writing on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Gyimah MP