

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please find outlined below our response to the Mandatory reporting of online National Reading and Numeracy Test results consultation.

We believe that there is a strong case for the governing bodies to continue to keep sending their test results to Local Authorities. It is important that local authorities retain data on academic achievement, especially in relation to low incident conditions such as deafness, so that monitoring can be undertaken to ensure that certain demographics are not disproportionately falling behind. We know that deaf children are consistently under achieving across the key stages. Last year, for example, deaf pupils in the Foundation Phase were 20% less likely to achieve the Core Subject Indicator than hearing pupils. As the attainment gap is still significantly high and presents an ongoing cause for concern, we strongly believe that the data requires constant and close monitoring.

Retaining this data would also assist Local Authorities to remain compliant with their duty to proactively workforce plan as outlined under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.

We would encourage the Welsh Government to consider the impact that removing this obligation would create and seek confirmation if the proposed new approach would still provide opportunity to assess results by ALN type.

We look forward to your response,

National Deaf Children's Society Cymru.