



CaSE response to the QCA Primary curriculum review

1. The Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) is a member organisation aiming to improve the scientific and engineering health of the UK. CaSE works to ensure that science and engineering are high on the political agenda and that through the implementation of appropriate evidence-based policies and adequate funding the UK has world-leading research and education, skilled and responsible scientists and engineers, and successful innovative business.

2. The comments that we would like to make focus around one issue and are better delivered in this format than through the detailed on-line survey.

3. The fact that science is not included in the new core subjects, combined with the lack of national science testing, may give teachers the perception that science has been relatively lowered in importance. Like many science and engineering organisations, CaSE welcomes the end to national science tests at the end of Key Stage 2. This should eliminate the teach-to-test approach that has limited primary science teaching. However, there is a very real risk to science teaching as long as national tests persist in mathematics and English. The thought and time dedicated to science may be reduced as schools focus on measures that are nationally assessed.

4. It is vital that safe-guards are in place to ensure that the importance and teaching of science are not down-graded with the proposed reforms. It needs to be explicitly communicated that national science tests were dropped because they were not judged to be appropriate for measuring science skills, not because science is seen as less important than it has been in the past. The attribution of teaching time and resources devoted to science before and after the introduction of reforms should be monitored to determine whether any changes have occurred so that they can be reversed if necessary.

Further Information

Dr Hilary Leever, Assistant Director, hilary@sciencecampaign.org.uk; 020 7679 4995.