

Education and Skills Committee
Survey Responses from Teachers

Anonymous Teacher 2

I am a Teacher with over 30 years' experience and quite frankly I am amazed that the Scottish Government is considering yet more changes to our education system. Since the end of the "Standard Grade" Qualification the changes to SQA qualifications have been relentless. We're still working on the latest round of these and we've still more to implement.

Now it appears the changes have moved to our junior levels. This apparent fixation on assessment at Government Levels is undoubtedly damaging our education system. Yes, pupils do need a form of assessment to ensure they are developing fully but surely not at the cost of the learning experience.

As a Teacher, I constantly consider the work I am planning, presenting and assessing only provides another tick in a box to satisfy various layers of management. It is not set out to encourage the young people in front of me to enjoy learning. This is so wrong, behaviour is deteriorating and pupils are demotivated due to the demands of our Education System.

How can you possibly expect to encourage more people into Teaching when existing Teachers are so stressed out and deriding their own profession constantly.

These Teachers have not entered the profession on a whim, it's not a career you embark on for the money nor for the holidays. Most people do this because they love either the subject they teach, the children they are teaching or just plain learning.

Unfortunately, it appears to be a very easy target for the upper echelons to poke, prod and at times taser. Everyone is an expert when it comes to Schools and Education, after all they've all had so much experience at school. Well you wouldn't trust a neighbour to carry out an operation just because they've been sick in the past.

Why don't you give Teachers the time, respect and encouragement (perhaps a few useful resources too) to develop their own skills and standards. I can assure you that they are pursuing the highest of these. Treat them as the professionals they have trained and longed to become.

No one needs to be bombarded with "Standardised Assessments". This may sound like an overreaction but it's how it feels. After 30 years of teaching I still love being in the classroom but I hate the constant changes. I feel I am at the lowest level of enthusiasm regarding the system that I have ever been.

It's also unfair to our young people. I find myself constantly apologising to pupils when yet another change to the system has to be catered for. Please refrain from further changes, promote and allow the professionals to carry out the work you have employed them to do.