



2020-0008728POGibb

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Jack Dromey
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Ms Layla Moran
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Ms Caroline Lucas MP
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7 April 2020

Dear Jack, Layla, Caroline,

Thank you for your email of 13 March, regarding the reception baseline assessment (RBA).

Statutory assessments at primary school are an important part of holding schools to account to ensure that they support all pupils, regardless of background or prior attainment, to achieve sufficient progress.

The RBA intends to replace Key Stage 1 assessments and act as a starting point for school progress measures. This will give schools recognition for the important work they do with pupils, including in their first three years of attending school. We have piloted the assessment in over 9000 schools and are confident that the RBA is a reliable form of assessment. School leaders who took part in the pilot gave positive feedback.

The Department has always been clear that data gathered from the RBA will not be used for any other purpose than for creating the progress measure. The data, including raw scores, will be kept in the National Pupil Database (NPD) and will not be shared with external bodies or published. The Department has consulted with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) with regard to the RBA's use of data. The ICO was content with the proposals and will continue to monitor the RBA through its relationship with Departmental officials working on the NPD.

With regard to the statutory legislation, the new regulations give provision for the amendment of the early years foundation stage statutory framework, which has the same legal force as the regulations and will include further detail on the policy decision to not share or publish RBA data. The Standards and Testing Agency will also make delegated supplementary provisions, which will be published at the beginning of the summer term. These assessment and reporting arrangements are statutory guidance, and further detail about pupil disapplication and parental information will be included here.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. L.', written in a cursive style.