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The National Curriculum: Design and Technology

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This paper raises a basic question.

Do we wish to set up yet another subject working party at this stage?

The Secretary of State has already:

- set up a working party on science;
- set up a working party on mathematics which produced a minority report and the resignation of the initial chairman;
- set up a working party on testing (TGAT) which has produced a controversial recommendation on which there is still a great deal of discussion, not least within the profession;
- set up the Kingman Committee;
- and is now about to set up an English working party.

These all relate to the core subjects of the National Curriculum and it is vital that we get the attainment targets and the testing of these targets absolutely right.

To introduce more working parties at this stage would be to create potential confusion among the teaching profession and to arm our critics who feel that we are proceeding with too much haste in any case.



Recommendation

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My personal feeling is that it would be far better not to set up another working party until we have come to firm conclusions on some of the earlier reports which we have initiated.

*Brian Griffiths*

BRIAN GRIFFITHS