BULLETIN 2
Assessment Arrangements
JANUARY 2016

Following extensive and ongoing negotiations between the teacher unions and management side, a number of changes to the end of Key Stage Assessment arrangements have been agreed. INTO continues to have concerns in relation to the Assessment Arrangements.

INTO therefore instructs members to continue with industrial action in relation to End of Key Stage Assessment, as set out in previous bulletins, until further notice.

In preparation for 2016/17 members are advised:

• To take part in CPD in relation to End of Key Stage Assessment arrangements only where paid substitute cover is available, and the training takes place during the school day;
• Schools taking part in Shared Education may submit levels on a pilot basis, based solely on teacher judgement, without the necessity to provide portfolio evidence;
• On a purely voluntary basis Teachers may undertake moderation in relation to levels.

Any member who feels that they are being asked to undertake unreasonable workload in relation to assessment should contact INTO. INTO continues to engage vigorously with DENI and CCEA to develop an assessment process that is fit for purpose. Northern Committee will continue to review the INTO position on a regular basis.

Background
INTO has driven the negotiations with DENI through the paper Rising to the Challenge. Our position was considerably strengthened by the solidarity of INTO members who followed so closely the directive to boycott the new assessment arrangements.

Outcomes
1. DENI have started work upon developing a Dashboard of Measures.
2. Mary Dorman from INTO is the NITC Representative on the Dashboard of Measures Working Group.
3. There is a clear commitment from the Minister of Education that the teacher is best placed to make the judgement on pupil performance.
4. There will no longer be a requirement for individual pupil portfolios.
5. The role of CCEA is to facilitate moderation. CCEA may not challenge teacher judgements.
6. End of Key Stage results may only be used in conjunction with other data by DENI and all other arm’s length bodies e.g. ETI, EA.

Next Steps
INTO will continue to work:

• To ensure that our education system starts to measure the valuable aspects of education rather than those aspects that are easy to measure on a spreadsheet;
• To ensure that effective value added measures are developed through the Dashboard of Measures;
• Closely with DENI and CCEA to ensure that relevant high quality CPD is provided over the next two terms, delivered by practicing teachers.

INTO will monitor closely the feedback we receive from our members how the CPD process is delivered. Those members who participate in the voluntary moderation process are requested to feedback to INTO through your school rep, branch meetings or Northern Committee Member.