



University of Huddersfield Repository

Crawford, Roger

Children of 7 too young to sit exams

Original Citation

Crawford, Roger (2007) Children of 7 too young to sit exams. Huddersfield Examiner (5).

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/6898/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>

'Children of 7 too young to sit exams'

A LEADING Huddersfield expert has defended exams for under-16s – but believes children of seven probably shouldn't be tested.

Dr Roger Crawford made the comments after the General Teaching Council said testing at seven, 11 and 14 was failing to raise standards and causing stress for pupils.

The senior lecturer at Huddersfield University's School of Education said: "Testing is very useful for parents and teachers in assessing school performance. But seven is very young to start testing.

"Assessing children at 11 is probably an adequate way to judge primary schools as this is the exit age."

Last week the General Teaching Council submitted a report to the House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee calling for pre-16 tests to be scrapped as they were too stressful for pupils.

But Dr Crawford, who has lectured at Huddersfield University since 1991,

By BARRY GIBSON
News Reporter

said: "Children who perform poorly in tests can be de-motivated, it's an almost inevitable consequence.

"It would be useful if this negative effect could be addressed in some way. Perhaps these children need extra support or a new kind of test."

As for testing at 14, Dr Crawford said: "Secondary schools have always tested, but now it's done on a national basis."

Education Secretary Alan Johnson has defended the tests.

He said: "Parents don't want to go back to a world where schools were closed institutions and no-one knew what was going on in them.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that our children leave school with a good grounding in English, maths and science."

barry.gibson@examiner.co.uk