

STATEMENT

NACE response to Prime Minister's speech 9 September 2016

NACE (The National Association for Able Children in Education) welcomes the government's focus on an education system that allows young people to go as far as their talent and hard work will allow. We value the debate on social mobility, but we need to understand what social mobility and an appropriate education means in the 21st century in the wider economic context and how it can be achieved.

NACE has worked with a diverse range of schools across England for over 30 years, focused on supporting the needs of the more able in the context of raising aspirations and achievement for all. Our Challenge Award schools, (where Able, Gifted and Talented provision has been formally reviewed) are those where education, including for the most able, is of a high quality.

We should continue to shine a spotlight on and learn from these schools that are successfully meeting the needs of our most able.

NACE recognises that all young people develop at different rates, and that children need opportunities to reveal their abilities and to flourish. Selection at eleven does not solve the complexity of able under achievers or address the issue that a far greater number of young people have the potential to benefit from a challenging education and greater opportunities.

To create an equitable education system where this is possible requires adequate and long term resourcing of all sectors of education. It also requires the ability to value diversity which offers equality of opportunity.

NACE believes that the focus should be on:

- Meaningful collaboration across all educational phases and sectors: NACE particularly welcomes the government's increased focus on HE links
- Creating a system that has an increased focus on the rigorous and sustained training of teachers at all stages, capitalising and enhancing the specialist expertise in educating the more able that already exists, and on specialist academic teaching

- Transition in and between educational phases to ensure progression
- Learning from schools across all sectors that are successful in meeting the needs of their academically able and testing effective approaches to inform the evidence base of what works.

Getting all of this right will require long term investment across education, and will require key partners working together to share their expertise and knowledge.

Notes to Editors: NACE is a not for profit organisation set up in 1983 specialising in working with schools and teachers to improve learning for Able, Gifted and Talented children.

It is recognised nationally and internationally as the UK's leading independent education organisation in the field of education for able learners. NACE membership is made up of teachers and schools. Through this network NACE is able to provide high quality guidance, support and training to enable teachers to get the best from able learners in the everyday classroom while helping all learners to flourish and achieve.

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