



Undergraduate Admissions : 061 - 275 3146
Postgraduate Admissions : 061 - 275 3144
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Our ref: EWG/CBC/sla

The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Education & Science

The Rt. Hon. Peter Walker, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Wales

Dear Secretaries of State,

I have pleasure in attaching the first report of the National Curriculum English Working Group. This covers the primary stages: profile components, attainment targets and programmes of study for ages 5-11.

We recommend three profile components: speaking and listening; reading; and writing. We suggest one attainment target for speaking and listening; two for reading - the development of the ability to read, understand and respond to all types of writing; and the development of reading and information-retrieval strategies for the purpose of study; and three for writing - a growing ability to construct and convey meaning in written language; spelling; and handwriting.

You will know that our timescale has been somewhat constrained. While we have received a large amount of written evidence from many sources, we have not been able to test out our recommendations before finalising them. Nor, of course, have we had the benefit of comment on a published interim report. In our view this makes it more important that those conducting the consultations do so on the widest possible basis. Although our first report is concerned with the primary stages, we do set out some principles which apply to the curriculum 5-16; the consultation on this report should therefore not be limited to people concerned with primary education.

We are, of course, beginning work at once on the secondary stages. We shall be assuming that the principles outlined in our first report are accepted, and that we should build on our recommendations there to provide continuity and progression. We clearly need to know soon if this assumption is ill-founded.

We look forward to submitting our second report to you at the end of April, 1989.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Cox

Professor C. B. Cox

Refer to attached folder

DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
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M13 9PL

30th September, 1988

