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Education expert calls for extra support for children who fail SATs

Former school teacher Stephen Curran author of 'How To' workbooks says "re-sitting SATs would be a pointless exercise unless a programme was in place"

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Feltham-based AE Publications founder and education expert Stephen Curran (Image: RUSSELL SACH)

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Author of 'How to' maths and English workbooks Stephen Curran has called for extra support for children who fail their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests).

As thousands of primary school children prepare to take the Year 6 tests, the founder of **Feltham**-based AE Publications, has backed resit plans for those that don't meet the grade but said only if it is accompanied by a programme of extra support.

He is committed to fixing the problem of children failing at the core subjects in **primary school** but has argued simple re-sits are not enough.

Education expert Mr Curran, who is on the panel advising the government on the new maths national curriculum, said: "Re-sitting SATs would be a pointless exercise unless a programme was in place."

The former school teacher added: "Children who fail in the secondary system do so because they do not have sufficient literacy or numeracy skills to cope.

"At secondary school children are trucked from subject to subject and if they are failing in English and Maths they will fail everywhere else too.

"Better still - all this is fixed at primary level.

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"However, an interim measure to help in the first year of secondary school will be useful – but only if there's enough support for those children who are failing to meet the requirements."

His support follows the Conservative Party announcement which would see children who do not reach the expected standard in Year 6, be made to re-take their SATs in the first year of secondary school.

In May, Year 2 and 6 children will be sitting their **KS1 and KS2 SATs**.

Last year, 79% of pupils taking SATs in Year 6 achieved the expected grades in reading, writing and maths – with 21% not reaching the standard Level 4.

And in 2013, only 7% of those who failed to make the grade in SATs went on to get the benchmark measurement of five good GCSEs, including English and Maths.

Mr Curran set up his tuition centre in the 1990s to help children pass the 11 plus exams.

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