

NATE National Association for Therapeutic Education

Patrons: Graham Allen MP* Rt Hon Professor Lord Alton of Liverpool KCSG KCMCO MP* Gregory Barker MP* Bishop Paul Bayes Rt Hon Richard Benyon MP* Gerry Bermingham MP* Clive Betts MP Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford MP* Tom Blenkinsop MP* David Borrow MP* Dr Peter Brand MP* Julian Brazier MP* Steve Brine MP* Helen Brinton MP* Annette Brooke MP* Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP* Paul Burstow MP* Bishop Paul Butler Dr Lisa Cameron MP Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE QC MP* Neil Carmichael MP* Jenny Chapman MP* Lord Chidgey MP* Rt Hon Tom Clarke CBE JP KSG MP* Vernon Coaker MP* Rosie Cooper MP* Lord Cotter MP* Baroness Cox John Cryer MP Alex Cunningham MP Sir Tony Cunningham MP* Janet Daby MP Cynog Dafis MP* Rt Hon Lord Davies of Oldham MP* Philip Davies MP Rt Hon David Davis MP Jim Dobbin MP* Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP* Brian Donohue MP* Rt Hon Lord Dubs MP* Mark Durkan MP* Rt Rev Lord Eames OM Bill Esterson MP Bill Etherington MP* Nigel Evans MP Tim Farron MP Mark Fisher MP* Robert Flello MP* Lord Flight MP* Barbara Follett MP* Michael Gapes MP* Rt Hon Lord Garnier QC MP* Dr Ian Gibson MP* Stephen Gilbert MP* Lord Glentoran CBE DL Mary Glindon MP Sir Richard Glyn BT Thomas Graham MP* Baroness Greengross OBE Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP* Andrew Gwynne MP Fabian Hamilton MP Mike Hancock CBE MP* Sir Nick Harvey MP* Lord Haskins Rt Hon Lord Dr Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE John Hemming MP* Bishop Ralph Heskett CSSR Bishop Peter Hill Wera Hobhouse MP Sharon Hodgson MP Bishop Anne Hollinghurst Professor Baroness Hollins Adam Holloway MP Paul Holmes MP* Rt Hon Baroness Hooper CMG Bishop Alan Hopes Rt Hon Lord Howarth of Newport CBE Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP Baroness Howe of Idlicote CBE Dr Kim Howells MP* Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Kings Heath PC OBE MP* Andrew Hunter MP* Dr Brian Iddon MP* Cathy Jamieson MP* Bishop Sophie Jelley Brian Jenkins MP* Jon Owen Jones MP* Dr Lynne Jones MP* Martyn Jones MP* Lord Jones of Cheltenham MP* Fraser Kemp MP* Andy King MP* Rt Hon Lord Knight of Weymouth Rt Hon Sir Norman Lamb MP* Pauline Latham OBE MP Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon OBE Professor Lord Layard FBA Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP John Leech MP* Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP* Professor Baroness Lister of Burtesett CBE Bob Litherland MP* Eifyn Ilywd MP* Andy Love MP* Karen Lumley MP* Dr Wendy Lynas PhD Rob Marris MP* Baroness Masham of Ilton DL Steve McCabe MP Ian Mearns MP Patrick Mercer OBE MP* Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP Bishop Roger Morris George Mudie MP* Bishop James Newcome Bishop David Oakley Mark Oaten MP* Lembit Opik MP* Diana Organ MP* Sandra Osborne MP* Lord Ouseley Professor Lord Parekh Bob Parry MP* Lord Patel KT Rt Hon Priti Patel MP Professor Sir Denis Pereira Gray OBE Bishop Dr John Perumbalath Peter Pike MP* Bishop Stephen Platten Chris Pond MP* Mark Prisk MP* Bishop John Pritchard John Pugh MP* Lord Rana MBE Syd Rapson BEM MP* Bishop John Rawsthorne Bishop Dr Lee Rayfield Lord Rea Of Eskdale MD FRCGP Rt Hon Lord Rees of Ludlow OM Bishop Edwin Regan Lord Rennard MBE Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick MP* Bishop Tony Robinson Dan Rogerson MP* Sir Bob Russell MP* Christine Russell MP* Martin Salter MP* Adrian Sanders MP* Laura Sandys MP* Barry Sheerman MP Henry Smith MP Peter Snape MP* Lord Storey CBE Gerry Sutcliffe MP* Lord Taverne QC Simon Thomas MP* Baroness Thornton Rt Hon Viscount Thurso PC MP* Sir John Timpson CBE Dr Desmond Turner MP* Dr Rudi Vis MP* Baroness Walmsley Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP* Mark Williams MP* Roger Williams MP* Bishop Tom Williams Lord Willis of Knaresborough MP* (MP* formerly Member of Parliament) (Patron during lifetime - Sir David Amess MP David Cairns MP Norman Mikardo Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor Archbishop Peter Smith)

The United Nations defines early childhood from 0-8 years. In the United Kingdom the figure is 0-5. The UN states that the period up to 8 years is critical for emotional development but in the UK from the age of 5 infants are educated in classes limited at 30 which can not sustain the individualised attachment relationships between children and adults on which psychological growth is known to depend.

The significance of this deficit is reinforced by the conclusion of the Sutton Trust that as many as 40% of children 'lack secure bonds with adults.' ('Baby Bonds' – Sutton Trust 2014.) The inability of the UK government to address parental dysfunction on this scale by providing adequate staffing ratios supported by an effective built environment in the state infant school sector is therefore a central cause of the ongoing deepening nationwide crisis of psychological health and resulting social and economic dysfunction..

The continuing failure of UK governments to effectively educate successive generations of infants will remain unresolved until infant school classrooms are established which resource psychological development. Classrooms should be redesigned to accommodate the realistic teaching staff ratios of 13:1 which are currently prescribed but not necessarily provided for infants of 4 years in the context of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS.)

State infant school class sizes limited at 30 inhibit psychological growth for the many thousands of children who need such help and remain a critical impediment to improving the psychological condition of the nation. To begin to resolve the current nationwide deepening crisis of psychological health government should reconfigure infant school classrooms and reduce infant class sizes to realistic levels.

For further information or discussion please contact

John Tierney Director National Association for Therapeutic Education **NATE**

January 2024