

# The UK education system – have we got it wrong?

## Vocabulary Match

- |                |                  |                      |                    |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. a diagnosis | 5. vulnerability | ___ native to (area) | ___ to flourish    |
| 2. a spiral    | 6. incohesion    | ___ to set off       | ___ a corkscrew    |
| 3. endemic     | 7. to thrive     | ___ not united       | ___ to keep apart  |
| 4. to provoke  | 8. to segregate  | ___ a conclusion     | ___ susceptibility |

## Article

“In terms of the health and well-being of our pupils and teachers, the UK education system is arguably nearing breaking point. Recent reports reveal that up to 54% of teachers state their job ‘often’ or ‘always’ impacts negatively on their mental and/or physical health.” (OFSTED, 2019)

For pupils, the statistics are much worse. One in ten primary aged children, and one in seven secondary aged pupils suffers from a mental disorder. Over the past 15 years, in real terms, this equates to a 15% increase in pupils receiving an official diagnosis (NHS, 2018). So, what is causing this negative mental health spiral in the UK education system?

Read the remainder of this article at:

<https://www.derby.ac.uk/blog/the-uk-education-system-have-we-got-it-wrong/>

## Quiz

1. What are some factors that contribute to poor mental health?
2. What does the author say is needed to help pupils thrive and keep teachers motivated?

## Conversation

A: Test after test after test... I’m drained both mentally and physically.

B: Tell me about it. I just feel like giving up. It’s like one big competition with no winners.

A: Hey, what if we just ran away? We could hop on a ship and escape to Estonia!

B: Ohh... I like that idea! I mean, really, it’s got to be better than here, right?

## Discussion

1. Do you agree with Singapore’s Education Minister that “learning is not a competition”?
2. In your opinion, at what age should testing begin?
3. Should pupils be grouped by ability? Why or why not?
4. What do you know about Estonia? Google some facts! Would you like to go there?

**13 interesting facts about Estonia you probably never knew:**

<https://www.trafalgarc.com/real-word/13-interesting-facts-about-estonia/>