Dear National Curriculum Review Group,

I am writing to raise my concerns about the National Curriculum’s implicit promotion of classroom hatching projects as a viable teaching tool. These schemes negatively impact children’s education and create huge animal welfare problems. I urge you to recommend the removal of the mention of hatching projects from the primary science notes and guidance.

During these projects, artificial incubators are used to hatch eggs in noisy classrooms full of young children but no mother. Sadly, many of the chicks are killed once the project ends, while others may be sent to already overburdened animal sanctuaries in [constituency name] and across the country.

These projects are often undertaken in an attempt to teach children about the reproductive cycle of animals, yet they show an incomplete picture of this process. A crucial element of this cycle is the strong attachment that chicks form with their mother, who is completely absent during a hatching project. Ultimately, these projects merely teach children to view animals as tools or disposable objects.

There are so many engaging educational tools available which teach children how reproductive cycles work in the natural world without harming animals. Many schools place nesting boxes in their grounds with cameras inside, so that students can view, in amazement, parent birds caring for their young.

Our education system should foster compassion towards others and the National Curriculum ought to reflect this. Sadly, this is not currently the case. The notes and guidance under the life cycles and reproduction topic in the primary National Curriculum states: “They might observe changes in an animal over a period of time (for example, *by hatching and rearing chicks*)”. This wording implies that hatching projects are a legitimate teaching method and effectively promotes their use to educators. I suggest that the wording is amended to “They might observe changes in an animal over a period of time (for example, *by watching footage from a nest box camera*)”.

I urge you to recommend the removal of hatching projects from the National Curriculum and instead promote one of the better, kinder alternatives.

Yours faithfully,