

Education Past, Present and Future
Essay

In this assignment i am going to be selecting an educational policy, act, initiative or report that i believe has had a significant impact on the UK or the Education system in some way and present it with a clear justification. I am going to consider the impact of the initiative I choose on the education system from any time period I feel appropriate.

I am going to think about what impact my chosen initiative has had on the education system up to the present day and explain who was involved and how it was achieved; I will do this by displaying evidence from wider readings to support my assignment.

I will demonstrate a chronological understanding of key periods and key reforms in this history of education in Wales and the UK and analyze the contested nature of the progress in education. Finally, I am going to demonstrate an understanding of the tension between 'local' and 'national' development and organise my knowledge and learning through the use of a range of information sources, including ICT, and present my work at an appropriate level.

In this assignment I have selected *The Education Reform Act 1988* to talk about as I believe this has had a significant impact on the UK. The Education Reform Act 1988 is the most important education act since 1944 and is widely regarded as the most important single piece of legislation in England and Wales since The 'Butler' Education Act 1944. It took power from LEA's and schools covered a range of areas in education. Since the Education Reform Act 1988 took over from the The Butler Education Act 1944 they have carried out some main features which have been introducing the National Curriculum which gives all schools programmes, subjects and targets to meet, it also introduced national tests at ages seven, eleven and fourteen, it manages school funding and budgeting (LMS), City Technology Colleges and finally OFSTED was introduced which is school inspections to make sure all targets are met.

The main aim of The Education Reform Act 1998 was British schools using marketisation in schools through league tables and open enrollment to allow all children a high standard education and allow children from all backgrounds to have access to a good education through using the acts policies. As a result of the curriculum and grades being introduced, this also helped Universities indicate what level incoming students were at and if they would be able to handle the workload of the module.

According to results across the United Kingdom it is apparent that The Education Reform Act has had a very strong impact on the education system, especially british primary schools. For British teachers this Act coming into place meant that teaching became more accountable and concentrated on all pupils across the country teaching core subjects like Maths and English.

Since the start of The Education Reform Act 1988 which provided the main framework for all schools to deliver to students, it has implemented many changes which include primary and secondary schools around the UK to opt out of local authority control and be funded by The Government.

The first national curriculum rolled out by Kenneth Barker in September 1989 as a result of The Education Reform Act 1988 as the programmes of study were drafted in 1988 to 1990 by the act and were put into teaching to follow the acts policies. It also made the radical change to make the leaving age of secondary school fifteen years old and provide all students with free school meals at lunchtime.

Having a curriculum and framework in place for all schools to follow allows children to understand what level of learning they should be at whilst also giving parents at home an indication of this too. As a result of a set curriculum, mostly in primary school, the rate of how fast someone can learn can often indicate a learning disability and therefore gives the school and guardian an early indication of this.

So what did the Education Reform Act 1988 achieve?

The Education Reform Act completely remodelled the school system as they knew it and the board of education was replaced by a minister who took control by making sure the local authorities were taking good care of the government funded schools resulting in higher standards of schooling and education. Local education authorities as a result of the act were required to submit for approval from the minister for any changes they wanted to make in the particular school so the authorities could keep all schools across the UK to a high standard. In addition to dealing with problems set by the minister, to tender advice on their own initiative. The total number of education authorities in England and Wales declined from 315 to only 146.

There was key points and major milestones to get The Education Reform Act 1988 the recognition it has to, this began in 1988 as the release of the Education Reform Act under the coalition government ran by Margaret Thatcher was released to the public with followed in pre NCPE recognised that the subject of Physical Education was not being recognised as a core subject, which in turn made the government realise all schools had different structures or aims, and some none at all. This made all schools have to go through the government to make their standar high. In 1992 there were still no solid aims or structures all schools had to follow and no competitiveness from students to gain a high grade, as a result of this the number of children attending schools started to decrease which raised many issues for the development of this act. In 199 there was finally a turning point as although there were still no solid aims set, lessons like Physical Education were getting recognised as important lessons needed in the curriculum and children started to show a passion for learning through seeing signs of development in key stages. Many years later in 2007 aims were finally set. These were:

- Improving pupils creativity and engaging in physical activity
- Promoting knowledge of how to live a healthy active lifestyle
- Develop a range of skills through the various activities taught

More versatile lessons were introduced like music and ICT and 'sets' in each year group were introduced to promote pupils to self evaluate their skills and how to improve.

Finally, in 2014 there was promotant core aims, which were:

- Develop competence to excel in activities across the board
- Physical education for a certain amount of time
- Engage in healthy competition

- All student to live a healthy and active lifestyle

Pupils in key stage 4 were expected to now take part in extracurricular activities and there was now a heavy focus on tactics within games and competition through stages.

In the Education Reform Act 1988 there needs to be an understanding of 'local' and 'natural' development. The Education Reform Act 1988 has changed the department of education fundamentally in England and Wales by following patterns given by The Government as the central government is given more legal powers which is giving local authorities less movement on how they would like their own individual curriculum to look like. It has defined a role for local authorities as it has given them new responsibilities in individual schools and colleges. The Education Reform Act has entirely changed the relationship between the department of education and sciences and local education system authorities in England and Wales. It follows the pattern of giving the central government more legal powers and reducing local authorities' discretion to the set policy.

I believe since The Education Reform Act was introduced in 1988 it has drastically changed the education system as we know it today for the better. The wide range of topics we get to choose from today is entirely down to this Act, as well as the government monitoring every child going to every school is guaranteed a good equality education.

In conclusion, in this assignment I chose The Education Reform Act 1988 as I believe this act has had a significant impact on the UK education system. To back up my readings I also included evidence of wider readings to support my decision.

References

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