

Education: Past, Present, Future.

Marketisation and the development of the National Curriculum

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this session you will:
 - Be able to identify the key events responsible for shaping modern educational policy
 - Be able to critically evaluate the key legislation and documentation from the period

Warnock and the '81 Education Act

- "To review educational provision in England, Scotland and Wales for children and young people handicapped by disabilities of body or mind, taking account of the medical aspects of their needs, together with arrangements to prepare them for entry into employment; to consider the most effective use of resources for these purposes; and to make recommendations". (Warnock, 1978 p1)
- Task:
 - What were the reports key recommendations?
 - What were the key provisions of the Education Act 1981?
 - What were the issues surrounding implementing reforms at the time?

The Early 80's

- Key Events
 - 1984 Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education
 - Triangular framework of responsibility between the schools, LEAs and local authorities was dismantled

The Early 80's

- Key Government Documents:
 - The School Curriculum 1981
 - Circular 6/81
 - Circular 8/83
 - Better Schools 1985



The Early 80's

- Legislation
 - Education Act 1980
 - Education (Fees and Awards Act) 1983
 - Education (grants and awards) act 1984
 - Education (Amendment) Act 1986
 - Education Act 1986
 - Education (No. 2) Act 1986

Curriculum Matters

- 17 Booklets Published by HMI
- Covered Most of the School Curriculum
- Laid the Groundwork for the incoming National Curriculum

Education Reform Act 1988

- Most Important Education act since 1944
- Took Power from the LEAs and Schools
- Covered a range of areas in Education



Why was it necessary?

- "The national curriculum was necessary then and it is necessary now. There was a huge variety of performance in schools. Somebody studying in Northumberland, if they had to move down to London, where were they? They'd already done dinosaurs twice and they'd do dinosaurs again there."
- "it was also important to improve the quality of education, particularly in socially deprived areas, because in many of those areas the bright kids were not really being stretched and the less bright kids were not getting the sort of education they should be getting."

(Baker 2004)


