EDUCATION PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE SCRAPBOOK

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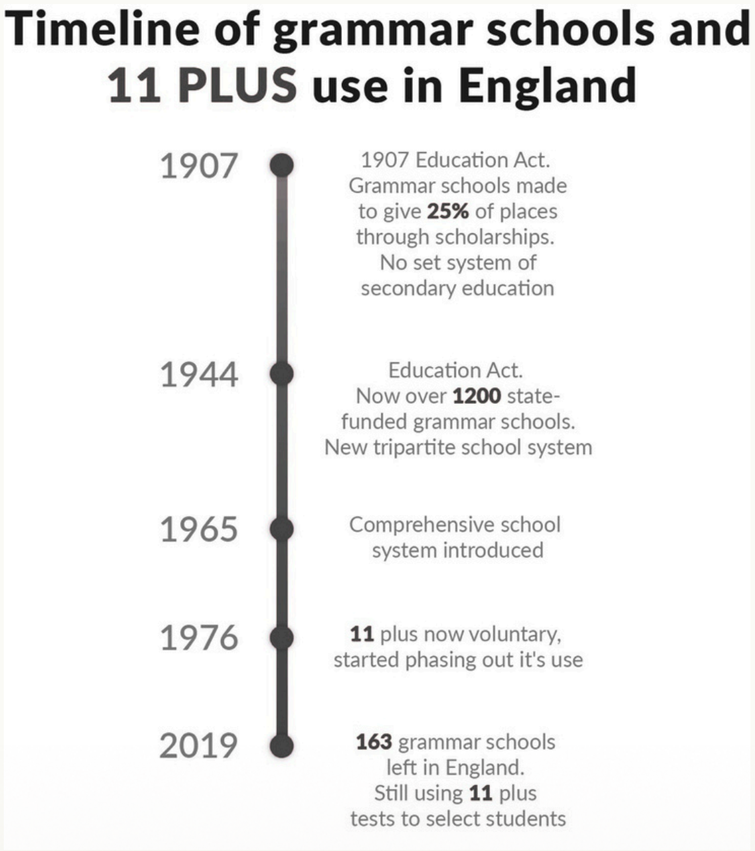
Introduction into act one butler act 1944

The first topic I have chosen to start of my scrapbook for the past, present and future of education is the butler act 1944 this act was introduced as a key part of legalisation after the first world war happened they believed the education system needed to change “Britain aimed to remove the problems which were in the system” this is why this act was put into place it was believed overall to help.

The butler act 1944 is important and is deemed as very contested because it caused a divide in the educational settings mainly because of the tripartite system which is grammar, Morden and technical schools these different sort of schools lead to problems with funding there wasn't enough money going towards all the education settings that weren't grammar schools this meant children who were less fortunate or had some sort of disability that was out in the open or hidden their needs were not getting met by the school and the religious beliefs from the church was not met when this system was set up which led to this act being contested at the time but the one of the main problem that was found with act was the 11 plus test.

In this part of my scrap book I will be discussing about the butler act 1944, the contested issues I have already mentioned , different viewpoints from others and finally a conclusion to draw together everything that I find on my first contested issue then I'll move onto my second issue in the next part of my scrap book.

The butler act and the 11 plus test



The butler act 1944

was a law that was brought in by the government to help Wales and England have a school system that they believed would be beneficial for everyone involved this act brought in three stages for schools these stages were primary, secondary and further education this act allowed for children and families who didn't have much money too still be able to have a good education these were the aims the government wanted out of this act but there was issues that made people overall go against this act and wanted a new one put in its place.

The butler act at this time in the 1940's was not very marketized in the United Kingdom it was the first act to bring in free entry into primary schools and secondary education which was much later than other country's education systems since it was part of the post war consensus but the act did not stand to marketize which made it different from others.

The 11+ test

The 11+ test was first introduced in 1944 it is part of the tripartite system, it is an exam that is done at the age of 11+ and it decided what kind of schools the children would go into such as technical or grammar schools.
It's a very contested issue because many people did not think of it as a positive influence on the children's education for example working class families they disliked this act, even though it helped their children get through school but there was hidden expenses on the side that parents didn't see which still made it hard for them to give the education their children needed, the labour party went against this act too their aim was to get rid of it completely it was believed that only middle class or higher class students got into the grammar schools and working class children didn't as much it was thought to be a very biased system.

The main contested issues

There was many contested within the butler act 1944 the first one I discovered while researching was that the education system didn't have enough funding to give out equal money to all the education settings which caused the better schools to get better and the worst ones to get even worse than they already are this was a big issue for everyone especially parents who didn't think their children's education needs were not getting met.

Another main issue that most individual's had with this act was the religious side of it the church at the time did not agree with this act when it was put in place which made a lot of people go against the butler act 1944 the church did not believe in the principal's that this act demonstrated overall.

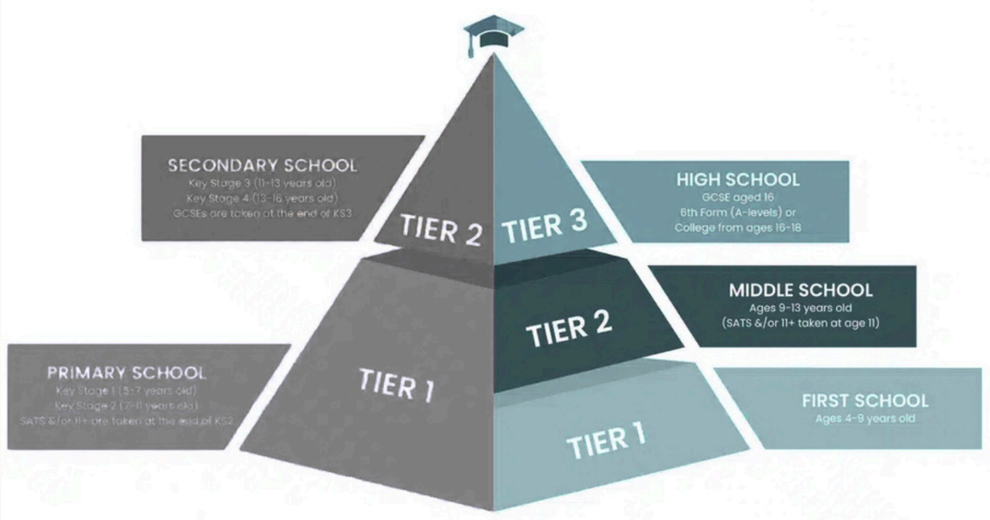
The final issue that came with the butler act 1944 that I found that is was not equal to all students' children with disabilities suffered a lot when it came to these education settings because the help that they needed was not provided for them it was believed to be taking away vital learning time for other students trying to teach the ones with disabilities in mainstream education.

Who is supporting this issue and who is against it

There were a good few people who were for this issue the people who were supporting the butler act 1944 mainly was the labour party they believed in free school access which means if the education system was free labour party would agree with whatever act was put in place the people who believed in this method was very much government/ politics based.

there was a lot more people who do not support the butler act 1944 these people are educators / teachers because their days would be changed and the amount the money they would get too this would affect their day to day lives since they didn't know how much they were getting paid,
the parents also had a problem with this act since they didn't feel like the schools were doing the best of their ability for their children's education.

Lower class families also disliked this act because it was believed that the system was set up unfairly because only the families who had more money their children only really got into the better schoolsbecause there was extra added on costs and hidden fees that they could not afford.



Different viewpoints from others

found different viewpoints from different people on the butler act 1944 they all range in different opinions for example The first example I found was from a blog online it explains about the act in general and what it was like to live through it and the 11 plus exam ‘The 1944 Education Act more than changed my life; it shaped it. It shaped me, like millions of others, into an entirely different person from the one I’d have become, born even 15 years earlier’ (Game,2013) this proves that if this person was born just a bit later their life would have been totally different because they would have missed out on this act.

There is another blog that i found this blog focuses on the the religion aspect of the butler act 1944 ‘He also allowed them to determine the nature of their schools' daily acts of worship and their syllabuses for religious instruction, but with an opt out for any parents who might want it’ (Sharpe, 2019)

I found one last example from another blog this blog talked about Christian churches and how they fitted into the education system during the time of the butler act 1944 ‘The 1944 Act not only protected the conservative interests of the Christian churches but maintained tight control over access to academic education for working-class students through the grammar schools’ (Osler 2024) this blog shows belief in the churches and explains a lot about working class students and their experiences getting into the better schools and the chances they have of actually getting in ,this blog also explains that the higher class the children are the more likely they will get into the better education settings.

Conclusion

To start the conclusion on the butler act 1944 I agree that it was a very contested issue and made education a lot harder for working class families to access I don't think it was an act that improved anything for schools.

the 11 plus test is very unfair for the education of children it affects them through their entire life if they didn't get into the grammar schools, i overall think it's unfair for one test to determine someone's entire life.

I agree with the many contested issues to do with this act and why people are against it such as religion and funding the different viewpoints put into perspective for me how much they really didn't think about anything other than this act and didn't think about what people would be affected with the costs.

Overall, i understand why people liked and disliked this act in 1944 but personally i don't think it should have been a thing since it was unfair to many children who didn't do well with exam pressure, this wasn't even a concern at the time which makes it very unfair to those who struggled with hidden problems.

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Introduction into education act 1981

The second topic i have chosen to focus on for the second part of my scrapbook of education past present and future is the education act 1981 this aim focused on different issues then the butler act 1944 this act brought in the framework and law supporting children with special educational needs this act allowed children with these more complex needs to still have a fair experience in their education and be able to get a career after school in what they want to do ‘the effect of the provisions of the Education Act 1981. The Act repeals the provisions of the Education Acts relating to special educational treatment and establishes a new framework for the education of children requiring special educational provision whether in special or ordinary schools’ (Gillard,2012).

This act was very contested at the time in the 1980’s because there was no main acts that only focused on children with special educational needs so when this was an idea of an act people didn't really know what this meant for their children's education long term and what were the positives if you did have extra needs and what were the negatives that the children could be faced with.

The criticism’s that this act was faced with was not enough resources, parents didn't have belief in the act because of the slow pace it was being shown in settings, inclusion and finally it clashed with another act in the 1980’s.
In this part of my scrapbook, I will be discussing the education act 1981 in more detail than I already have , I will also be discussing the criticism’s this report faced that I have previously mentioned and different viewpoints from others on what they thought about this report and finally I will draw it all back together with a conclusion at the end with my own opinion included.

Education act 1981

1. The education act 1981 got brought in by the government in the 80s to help those children with more complex needs be fulfilled while being in education settings this education act got ideas from the warnock report which was made a little bit earlier on the 70's overall the education allowed children with special educational needs have acsess to main stream schools 'An act that makes while having respect to children with special educational needs' (government uk). This act was also very big on parent participation giving the parents a voice into their children's education made this act stand out compared to others overall, finally it gave much needed support to the way people thought of special educational needs in general. 'The Warnock Report has been highly influential with respect to the development of both national and local policy and practice for SEN' (Linsday, Wedell, Dockrell, 2020).

2. The Warnock report related to the education act 1981 since in 1979 when the report was created it gave the basis and the framework for the 1981 education act it also gave the idea not to just think of children as individuals with issues but give more thought on what special education needs they may have and how they could be helped within education settings there are other relations between these two as well such as parental rights and inclusion into the education system no matter what the children struggled with but overall the education act 1981 became the act and Warnock report stayed as the basis of it.

3. Unlike the butler act in the 1940's part of the education act in the 1980's did marketize by doing this they made education systems compete within schools and go against each other to see what schools were better, bringing marketing into the education system also brought Ofsted inspections within school so if they weren't good enough or the children weren't being treated right they could be shut downdoing marketing it had its positives but also it had the same amount of negatives about it.

The main contested issues

There are many contested issues that came from the education act 1981 in the 1980s I'm starting with the fact there was not enough resources in education settings for this act to reach its full potential the schools did not have enough money to get all the resources needed to support the children with special educational needs because of lack of funding they could not provide for every child equally, which put doubt on this act overall because if the schools couldn't provide the resources needed would it even help the children this lead to the education act 1981 being very criticised.

The next contested issue i found for the education act 1981 is the fact that parents did not have enough belief in it, the parents believed even though the act was meant to give them a voice in their children's education they still felt unheard by education settings since they didn't stick to their word with letting the parents get involved it caused a lot of doubt for this act overall by many people it became very contested since parents were promised they'd have a say.

the third criticism I found of the education 1981 act is inclusion and implementation this act firstly struggled to even get into education settings it wasn't till later in 1996 that one part of this act became legal which was allowing children to go to mainstream schools if they had special educational needs at the time in the 1980s they could not achieve this part of the act even in the 1980s when it was first tried in education settings it struggled to be fair to every child which left some feeling excluded since the LEA could not provide equal support for everyone.

Different viewpoints

I found many different viewpoints on the education act 1981 from three different starting with
The first opnion i found on the education act 1981 is from sheffled university by two writers their opinion on the education act 1981 is ‘gave the parents the right to be involved in the process of assessing their child’ (runswick cole, hodge 2009) this is showing their opinion because they are talking about the process and how it was new that parents were involved from what I read in this statement it shows the facts and how the education act 1981 affected children in a good way this a overall positive viewpoint on this act from what ive read.

The second viewpoint I have found on the education act 1981 is from a blog the writer he believes that this act ‘1981 Education Act gave parents the right to express a preference on which school their children should go to’ (Husbands,2013) this is yet again showing a positive outlook on this act since the parents are allowed to get involved the blog also shows the writers opinions such as nursery education should become free for all children which is showing a bad side to this act , this viewpoint shows positives and negatives and gives an overall personal opinion.

The third and final viewpoint that i found talks about why the education act 1981 is important, it explains why the act is good and the positive outcomes that came from it but the writer also writes about the challenges too such as ‘the appeals process can be lengthy and complicated, resulting in delays that can be frustrating for all parties involved’ (Elliott,2023)this shows how the writer understands both sides of the act the struggles and the positive’s he also writes about parental involvement like the other two viewpoints and finally how people had a deeper understanding of the SEN because of this act overall the writer shows the positives and negatives of this act.

Conclusion

To start my conclusion on the education act 1981 I will say my opinions on the act firstly starting with i believe it was brought into education systems for the greater good it allowed children with disabilities and special educational needs to have a fair education like every other child around them it also made the children feel included which is vital that they feel like they belong while growing up it gave them the chance to make friends and experience normal education settings.

Going back to my introduction i do understand why this act was very contested to begin with in the 1980's since it struggled to get back to parents with what support their children would be getting and the overall outcome for the act.

I do agree with a few of the contested issues of the education act 1981 such as the parent involvement and funding since they were promising that parents would be involved every step of the way which they weren't, and the act was promising resources that some education settings could not fund for the children which made the education act in some settings pointless i dont think it should of been brought in at a time where the act could not provide for every education system equally if they could of provided for everyone at the time I do believe it would not of been contested.

Overall, I believe that the education act 1981 did a lot of good by being brought into education systems it allowed children with special educational needs an equal opportunity in schools and gave them learning support which they never had before, I believe it helped education systems a lot especially the children who struggled with hidden disabilities or just felt too embarrassed to say they were struggling.

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