

Education Reform Act 1988



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.



OFSTED

The office for standards in Education was set up in 1992 to inspect schools every six years to make sure it stayed up to national standards.



School Budgets

When the Education Reform Act came into play it took the responsibility of the school budget and what its spent on away from the teachers and gave it to the government.

Management was taken away from LEA's and given to the Head Teacher of each school.



National Tests

The Education Reform Act brought in National Tests which were compulsory tests for seven, eleven and fourteen year olds to see what stage of learning they were at. This was the replacement to previous tests that teachers would compose themselves. As all the tests now are exactly the same it is a lot easier to compare results to different areas and schools.



The National Curriculum

This National Curriculum is government sanctioned for children in school between the age of five until they leave comprehensive school.

In the past, teachers were able to decide what they taught in their own lessons at their own pace, but since The National Curriculum was introduced the responsibility for what is taught and is now in the hands of the government, which they decided to split into three core subjects (maths, english and science) and seven foundation subjects.

From 1988 schools all had to teach core subjects which were maths, english and science until they had finished schooling to GCSE level.

What did The Education Reform Act 1988 achieve?

The Education Reform Act 1988 has shaped today's education system more than any other act (and this is why I chose it!) and as a result of this The 1977 New Labour and other government parties have followed the guidelines of this act to this day and still actively use it in today's education.

This act achieved a high standard of education across the UK as it set up policies which in time would raise the standards of every school.

Who was involved in The Education Reform Act?

The New Rights 1988 Education Reform Act put in place policies to raise standards, but The 1997 New Labour and the 2010 Coalition Government are keeping the system running today.

How did The Education Reform Act impact the education system?

“The Education Reform Act 1988 has fundamentally changed the relationship between the Department of Education and Science and the local education authorities in England and Wales. It follows the pattern of giving central government more legal powers and reducing local authorities’ discretion to set policy,”- The Education Reform Act (Policy Studies Institute).

In conclusion, I think The Education Reform Act has had a huge affect on the education system since it began in 1988 as it has given all school policies and standards to follow so every school is to a certain standard so every child has a good education. It also introduced inspections so schools were kept up to a certain standard in every aspect.

References

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School Boards Act 1988

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