

The 2010 election offers an opportunity to assess the current state of education and to see how we could do better.

WHAT WE KNOW

Education at its best offers children knowledge and understanding of the world so they can think for themselves.

Schools today are failing to educate because they are no longer required to develop children so that they learn the best that is known and thought.

Schools do not think they can educate all children; as a consequence they embrace fads and fashions involving social engineering and pseudo-science rather than teach the subject knowledge that can genuinely transform young minds.

It is self-evident that every child matters; the point is to educate them.

WE MUST DO BETTER

Schools are for education which is achieved by subject-based teaching as the route to intellectual autonomy and freedom.

The role of teaching is to explain the subject to the highest possible level as a means of explaining the world to the next generation.

WE MUST DO BETTER CONTINUED

Schools should be run to allow teachers to teach and inspire children in a shared quest for subject knowledge.

Examinations are necessary to show understanding of the subject. This understanding is the basis of creativity.

Politicians must ensure that schools are free to educate. Designing the curriculum, and examinations that are genuinely demanding tests of knowledge, are the responsibility of teachers.

WHAT TO DO

If you agree with the Education Election Statement we want you to argue for it with politicians, teachers, parents and anyone with an interest in education.

If you disagree with the statement in all or in part then we want you to debate it with us and others.

What is important is that this election does not happen without a serious debate about education.

This statement was written for the Education Forum by Dennis Hayes, Shirley Lawes, Toby Marshall, David Perks, Kevin Rooney and Mark Taylor.

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