

It has long been an established principle within this country of Great Britain that each individual has two fundamental rights:

1. To be educated.
2. To have access to free medical care.

The original concept was indeed a magnificent idea; however, over the years both services have become more and more bureaucratic, and politically motivated to attract the electorate's vote.

Class boundings have always been relevant within Society's structure, but none more so than in the area of education. People who have money will always expect the right to choose to what school to send their offspring and indeed have a vote on what appears within the school curriculum. The majority, however, do not have this facility and must take their chances within the often confused system of state education which is continually changing, according to the Government of the day.

Bright children will always rise to the top whether they attend comprehensive schools or secondary modern, and will demand the opportunities which their parents feel they deserve. However, the average child, or the child who is below average, or has learning difficulties, will have to fight hard to be heard, and will invariably not attract the interest and time of the teachers concerned. This assumes, of course, that the child attends the school of his parents' choosing if the parents are lucky enough to survive the methods of allocating places. This method is used in an effort to avoid overcrowding of the better schools, and depletion of the inferior ones. To my mind, teachers should be paid by results, and should justify their positions within the education system; this would then ensure that all state schools were of a consistently high standard.

Education prepares our children for adult life, and in many instances has a substantial bearing on certain aspects of their personalities and beliefs; therefore, great care should be exercised in the content of the subjects which appear on the curriculum. Children need to be taught not only the ability to cope with academic subjects, but also on how to communicate effectively, and given the ability to get on with others.

Fortunately, as a parent I have been blessed with the opportunity to send my child to an extremely good primary school where the teachers do care, are highly motivated, and are quick to recognise problem areas within the children's abilities, and provide superb remedial facilities if they feel they are needed.

Parents are encouraged to visit the school and to speak freely about their child's educational needs. Therefore, if my son's secondary education is as satisfactory, then I will consider myself to be one of the more fortunate parents.