



## Progressively Worse: The Burden of Bad Ideas in British Schools

By Robert Peal

Civitas. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Progressively Worse: The Burden of Bad Ideas in British Schools, Robert Peal, Since 1953, education spending in Britain has increased by nine times in real terms but levels of numeracy and literacy among school leavers have hardly changed. Today, Britain is the only country in the developed world where literacy and numeracy levels amongst 16-24-year-olds are no higher than amongst 55-65-year-olds. In this historical analysis, Robert Peal argues that this abject record in educating our children cannot be detached from a movement which took hold in British state schools from the 1960s onwards and has been called, with deep inappropriateness, 'progressive education'. This movement is based upon a romantic view of the child. It believes that children are both innately good and natural learners, who should be freed from the guidance and direct instruction of the teacher. Teacher training, local authorities and schools inspectors all signed up to this idealistic, but damaging, belief. Relevance, freedom, active learning, skills and self-esteem became the unquestionable pillars of this education orthodoxy. Rigour, hard work, knowledge, discipline and competition were deemed pejorative terms. Half-a-century on from its arrival, progressive education is under attack on multiple fronts. Empirical...



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Progressively Worse and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more. Progressively Worse: The Burden of Bad Ideas in British Schools. by Robert Peal (Author). To most observers, the obvious choice lies somewhere in the middle. According to the author, British schools over the last 50 years have firmly accepted the latter statement in each of these dichotomies. Collectively, they represent "progressive education", as opposed to "traditional" education. Similar arguments have been made in earlier books, notably by E.D. Hirsch. Since 1953, education spending in Britain has increased by nine times in real terms but levels of numeracy and literacy among school leavers have hardly changed. Today, Britain is the only country in the developed world where literacy and numeracy levels amongst 16 to 24-year-olds are no higher than amongst 55 to 65-year-olds. If Britain is to have a world-class education system in the twenty-first century, abandoning the burden of bad ideas it has inherited from the twentieth is the surest route to success. I challenge anyone not to burn with anger reading Robert Peal's damning [and] brilliant history of progressive education. Graham Stuart MP, chairman of the House of Commons Education Select Committee. Ofsted repeatedly gave schools bad reports if they did not conform to the progressive orthodoxy. In 2004, the New Labour schools minister David Miliband declared that the children of the Blair years would be "the best educated generation in our nation's history". This promise was flatly contradicted nine years later when a survey by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) showed England and Northern Ireland to be the only countries in the developed world where literary and numeracy levels among 16 to 24-year-olds were no better than among 55 to 65-year-olds. PROGRESSIVELY WORSE: The Burden Of Bad Ideas In British Schools by Robert Peal is published on Monday by Civitas at £14. To order a copy at £12.50 (p&p free), call 0844 472 4157. 'Progressively Worse is the best education book I have read in a long while. Agree with him or not, it is brilliantly written.' Professor Alan Smithers, Director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research, The University of Buckingham. I have had to move schools twice due to this attitude from SLT and never really had the time to research prevailing educational ideas of their history and this book has given me this. Read more. 2 people found this helpful.