

Cultural Capital

Education

Bourdieu's concept, and what happens to it when it becomes a curriculum policy term.

Bourdieu's concept

- Cultural knowledge as a form of capital
- Schools reward what advantaged homes supply
- It is a critique of how schools reproduce class
- Embodied, objectified and institutionalised forms
- Descriptive, from the sociology of education

The policy usage

- Knowledge schools should give all pupils
- Aims to compensate for unequal home resources
- Treated as a curriculum entitlement
- Often reduced to trips and canonical texts
- Prescriptive, from inspection frameworks

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The same phrase names a critique of schooling and a prescription for it. Say which you mean before the argument starts.

Educational reference. Contested. Whether a knowledge entitlement narrows gaps is an empirical question, and the evidence is not settled.