

Accountability

Education

How systems check school quality, and the behaviour each one produces.

Every accountability method changes what schools do, by design.

Mechanism	Produces
Inspection visits	Preparation for the visit
Published results	Focus on measured subjects
Progress measures	Attention to all pupils, not just some
Floor standards	Effort at the threshold
Self-evaluation	Variable honesty
Peer review	Slower, less comparable judgement

Educational reference. High-stakes accountability improves what is measured most reliably, which is not the same as improving education.