

Who Decides The Curriculum

Education

The trade-off between a common national curriculum and local control.

National control

- A common entitlement for every pupil
- Mobile families face less disruption
- Easier to train teachers for it
- Enables comparable assessment
- Risk: a single point of political failure

Local or school control

- Responsive to context and community
- Teacher expertise shapes the content
- Room to experiment and adapt
- Risk: entitlement varies by postcode
- Risk: workload of writing it from scratch

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Most systems sit in between: a specified core with local choice at the edges. The argument is usually about where that line falls.

Educational reference. Contested. Curriculum authority is a political question about entitlement and control, not a settled empirical one.