

# School Choice

Education

The argument that competition improves schools, and what the evidence shows.

## The case for

- Competition pressures weak schools to improve
- Families are not tied to a postcode
- Diversity of provision meets varied needs
- Poor schools lose pupils and must respond
- Innovation spreads through the sector

## The case against

- Choice in practice tracks income and transport
- Schools can select intake by other means
- Segregation between schools tends to rise
- Falling rolls harm the pupils left behind
- Information about schools is unequally used

### THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Effects on average attainment are small in most studies. Effects on how pupils are distributed between schools are consistently larger.

Educational reference. Contested. Findings depend strongly on the local rules on admissions, transport and funding that follow the pupil.