

The Disadvantage Gap

Education

The gap linked to socio-economic disadvantage, and what schools affect.

The gap is present at school entry and widens across schooling.

What the data shows

A gap is measurable before school starts

It widens across primary and secondary

Vocabulary differences appear very early

Absence explains a substantial share

Schools affect part of it, not all of it

Better bets for schools

Quality of teaching for all, first

Targeted small-group tuition

Explicit vocabulary and reading instruction

Attendance work with families

Fewer interventions, better implemented

Educational reference. Effect sizes from toolkits are averages across varied trials; local implementation quality matters more than the ranking.