

Schools: corporal punishment and learners' councils

Howard Brown (*Sparing the Rod*, 9 January 2007) praises the "short sharp shock". At primary school in the 1930s I received one only of these; at secondary level the same. Each had a profound and lasting learning effect, which in retrospect was positive. That is something we have lost.

Another point I take from Mark Gould's piece is Mary Marsh's students' charter "which they helped to write". The secret of beating bullying and indiscipline without corporal punishment is to set up a learners' council and let them call the shots. It works every time.

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