

Comment: Why we can't let schools become book-free zones

NEWS & OPINION

### Strategy without style

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The latest report from the independent Primary Review (page 12) warns that schools have been confused by having to adopt business styles and management terminology imported from the United States. This has resulted in heads focusing on "delivering excellence" and developing "vision strategies", rather than adopting a hands-on approach many prefer.

Too many initiatives, and Whitehall's over-eagerness to impose one fad after another, does nothing to help heads develop their own leadership style. Too many teachers are also left demoralised by what researchers call "policy hysteria", when what they really need is motivating.

Sustained improvements can only come from policies that work long term, and are not revised or abandoned every time a minister is changed. Good schools involve staff in developing strategies that really work.

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