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News in brief

EDUCATION

Classroom debate boosts results

Encouraging pupils to argue and debate in class can help boost their results in English, maths and science, according to research.

Getting primary school children to explain their answers and reason with their classmates can help youngsters to make more progress in these core subjects, it suggests. A total of 78 primary schools in England with higher-than-average numbers of poorer children took part in the trial of "dialogic teaching", published by the Education Endowment Foundation.