The local authority, the schools and the new Birmingham Education Partnership: power and participation in the Birmingham school system

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Connections: the school system in the city

The school system

- elected local government
- the local economy including the cultural economy,
- teachers as a distinctive professional sector of the Birmingham workforce
- citizens, including parents and the 5000 voluntary governors
- children and young people
- local place-based communities
- identity-based and issue-based communities

Connections: issues of power and inequality, structure and agency, in the school system and in the city

Issues of power
- the distribution of power in the school system and in the city, including the role of elected local government
- patterns of inclusion and exclusion

Issues of social inequality
- social inequalities of power
- social inequalities of educational outcomes and access to job markets

Structure and agency
- dominant and subordinate structures – social, cultural, ideological, economic, political
- dominant and subordinate actors – institutional, collective, individual

Connections: modes of social coordination in the city

Hierarchy
- increased centralised government control
- declining local authority bureaucratic powers
- increased heads' managerial powers

Market
- school collaboration and school competition

Networks and network governance
- horizontal relations of inclusion and democracy
- exclusion and hierarchical dominance