

Inclusion Controversy Heats Up in Britain

Last year's election of David Cameron as the UK's Prime Minister has led to a bitter dispute over education policy in that country. A long tradition of special schools was gradually being reduced during the Labour Government.

Special schools closed as a policy of greater inclusion of children with disabilities developed. Even so, many parents experienced many obstacles to get their children into mainstream schools. Critics said that there was indeed a move to more inclusion but it was not properly supported with resources.



Even so, the Conservatives seemed to think things had gone too far and promised to reverse what they saw as "bias for inclusion".

The 2010 Conservative Party manifesto states: "The most vulnerable children deserve the very highest quality of care, so we will call a moratorium on the ideologically-driven closure of special schools.

Mr Cameron, whose disabled son Ivan died in 2009, said that as the parent of a disabled child himself, he was "passionate" about helping parents get the education that was right for them. He said he would make it easier for parents to get what was right for their child, be it inclusion in mainstream schools or a special school education.