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Tackling inequalities in political socialisation: A systematic analysis of access to and mitigation effects of learning citizenship at school

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Cover page: Tackling inequalities in political socialisation: A Systematic analysis of

Access to and

Mitigation Effects of Learning Citizenship at School

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Abstract:

This article tackles the issue of social inequalities in voting and identifies how and when differences in learning political engagement are influenced by social background in the school environment between the ages of 11-16 in England. Using Latent Growth Curve Modelling and Regression Analysis on the Citizenship Education Longitudinal (CELS) data this research identifies two elements that influence the political socialisation process: access to political learning and effectiveness in the form of learning in reducing inequalities in political engagement. The results show that there is unequal access by social background to learning political engagement through political activities in school and through an open classroom climate for discussion. However, there is equal access by social background to Citizenship Education in schools and this method of learning political engagement is effective at the age of 15-16 in reducing inequalities in political engagement.

Keywords: political socialisation; inequalities; voting; citizenship education; open classroom climate; political participation

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