

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes on...Common Sense on Competitive Games in Sport

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If the politically-correct educationists of our country had not ruled that competitive games were bad for schoolchildren and allowed these to be virtually abolished, then the lives of a generation of kids would not have been blighted. We all knew the message to be wrong, stupid, yet we let them - in defiance of common sense - intimidate us.

Now, belatedly, the Culture Secretary, Tessa Jowell, realises the that she has to overthrow "politically correct nonsense of the 80s" and reinstate competitive sport in schools. "You only have to look a what young children do in the playground", she gushes "to see how they thrive on competition".

But anyone with a bit of common sense knows this, don't they? We don't need reformed Government ministers to tell us the obvious. What we do need, however, is to have more confidence in ourselves and learn from this.

We should never, ever, again allow ourselves to be dictated to on what is right and what is wrong in how we should live our lives - whether it be about competitive sports or whether mothers should go out o work - by trendy metropolitan ideologues peddling their latest fad. Instead we should insist on being governed by common sense because this is what all decent people know to be sensible - and right.