

Peter Wilby *First Thoughts*

May's mobility

If Theresa May must have grammar schools, she could do two things to make them more palatable to lefties like me. First, she should stipulate that any children who have benefited from their parents paying for education – whether through attending a fee-paying school or through private tuition – must be banned from entry. Second, she should instruct the schools to recruit all their pupils from postcodes where two-thirds or more of the child population is eligible for free school meals. I remain opposed to grammar schools, the evidence against them being so overwhelming. Yet at least those two steps would give them a small chance of doing what it says on the tin of May's social mobility policy, and the second may have the pleasing side effect of creating a house-price premium in the poorest areas.



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