

# Stop evangelism in schools

We're concerned about the involvement of evangelical religious organisations in publicly funded schools, including through the provision of religious education, school worship and pastoral work.

External groups can make a valuable educational contribution to schools. With the right boundaries in place, staff and parents can be assured of no inappropriate proselytization.

## What's the problem?

Our state schools are being targeted and exploited by evangelical groups as part of their missionary work. Schools are often acting with good intentions, but are too often naive and unprepared to set appropriate boundaries. Meanwhile, parents are too often not informed of the visits of backgrounds of groups.

The legal obligation on all schools to provide a daily act of worship provides a foot in the door to organisations with evangelistic intentions. The ambiguity about the specific aims and purpose of religious education, and its low status in schools, provides an ideal environment for evangelical groups to exploit.

In autumn 2016 we asked a random selection of 150 non-faith and 150 faith schools about their external visitor policies as part of our research into evangelism in schools. Only 35% of schools had a policy or policies which covered the participation, invitation or behaviour of external groups/visitors/speakers. Only 16% of schools had a policy or policies concerning the partisan promotion of religious or political beliefs by external groups/visitors/speakers.

None of the policies examined explicitly requires parents to be informed of visitors in advance. Although some schools told us this was normal practice.

66% of policies examined did recommend thorough research of the visitor in advance, rising to 79% among community schools (most other variations between faith and non-faith schools were low). None of the policies clearly prohibited religious proselytization, nor required a teacher/staff member to introduce an external visitor and make clear that they are representing their religious views. Again some schools did say this was their practice. 57% of policies examined stipulated that a teacher or teaching assistant should always be present.

## What are we doing?

- Helping parents challenge inappropriate evangelism in schools is a major part of our casework. If you are experiencing these issues and would like advice, [please get in touch](#).
- In 2013 we published a [major report](#) to highlight the problem of schools are being targeted and exploited by evangelical groups as part of their missionary work. We are working with schools to develop best practice for working with external visitors, and particularly religion and belief groups.

## What you can do:

\* Required Field

Let us know if you support this campaign

Messages of support help inform our future work on this issue.

Name\*:

Email\*:

Your message of support:

Please leave a message of support for the campaign. Responses may be used in accordance with our supporter comment policy.

Postcode:

Would you like to join our newsletter to be kept up to date with this and our other campaigns?

Yes

Do you want to receive local updates based on your postcode?

Yes

Count me in

## Write to your MP

Ask your MP to support a code of practice so external groups can contribute to schools without evangelism or proselytization.

Enter Postcode:

- [Other representatives](#)

We also have template letters to write to your Members of the Scottish or Welsh Parliaments or Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly.

[External groups can make a valuable contribution to schools. Please join this campaign for a proper code of practice to prevent inappropriate evangelism and proselytization.](#)

[Click to tweet](#)

## Share

You can use the share buttons on the right to share this campaigns page with your social networks. Help show the importance of this campaign by sharing your story.

- [Share your story](#)

## Parents, pupils, and teachers: need advice?

Do you have concerns about inappropriate evangelism in your school? Want to set appropriate boundaries? Our campaigns pages have plenty of information, but if you need more, please:

- [Visit our advice page](#)
- [Get in touch](#)

## More information

- [Dealing with inappropriate evangelism in schools](#)

Advice for parents, schools, pupils and local authorities.

[Read More](#)

- [Evangelism In State Schools report](#) (PDF, 493 Kb)

Read our 2013 report on the activities of evangelical organisations in state schools.

## Anti-choice campaigners in schools

Are you concerned about anti-abortion misinformation/propaganda in schools?

[Click here](#) to find out more about our work for faith free sex education in schools.

For information on anti-abortion organisations in schools and their tactics, you may be interested in [this report](#) from the national young people's sexual health charity, Brook.

- [Operation Christmas Child: FAQ](#)

Looking for advice challenging this evangelical scheme in your school, workplace or society?

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## While you're here

Education is a huge part of our campaigning, policy and casework. Please consider a donation to enable us to continue making a difference.

- [Support us from just £1 a month](#)