

# No more faith schools

We want an open and inclusive education system, free of religious discrimination. A secular approach would see faith-based education phased out and ensure that publicly funded schools are equally welcoming to all children, regardless of their backgrounds. We oppose publicly funded faith schools and campaign for an end to religious discrimination in school admissions.

**We have now launched a dedicated website campaigning for inclusive education:**  
[NoMoreFaithSchools.org](http://NoMoreFaithSchools.org).

## What's the problem?

Schools with a religious character or 'faith schools' as they are commonly known, account for around a third of our publicly funded schools in England and Wales. Scottish and Northern Irish schools are still divided along sectarian lines.

We oppose faith schools in principle. Parents are entitled to raise their children within a faith tradition, but they are not entitled to enlist the help of the state to do so. The state should not fund proselytisation or allow the schools it funds to inculcate children into a particular religion.

There are other reasons why organising children's education around religious identities is a bad idea. Separating children along such fundamental lines of difference is divisive and leads to religious, ethnic and socio-economic segregation.

To make matters worse, many faith schools can discriminate against pupils and teachers who do not share the faith of the school.

Despite a consistent and dramatic decline in church attendance, and a growing majority of non-religious citizens, successive governments have paved the way for ever greater religious involvement in education, often to the detriment of inclusive community schools. Data from the House of Commons library shows that the proportion of state faith schools increased in England between 2000 and 2017 - from 35% to 37% at primary level and 16% to 19% at secondary level.

This seriously limits choice for parents who do not want a religious education for their children, or do not share the faith of the local school. Indeed our research has [shown](#) that 18,000 families were assigned faith schools against their wishes in England in 2017 alone.

Human rights treaties give parents and legal guardians the right to educate their children in accordance with their religion and philosophical convictions, and children should not suffer discrimination because of this. **The state is not obliged to actively participate or provide resources to assist parents in such religious education; parents do not have a right to state funding for confessional religious teaching or religious schools that are in line with their own beliefs**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises childhood as ending at 18, noting that the child's views should progressively be taken into account as s/he develops capacity.

## [Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Freedom of Religion or Belief Toolkit](#)

Watch our video to find out why faith schools don't add up.

[This short film explains why I'm saying #NoMoreFaithSchools. Please share and join the campaign.](#)

[Share the campaign video](#)

[I've joined the campaign for an inclusive education system free from religious discrimination or control. Will you?](#)

[Share the campaign](#)

## What are we doing?

- [We now have a brand new website dedicated to our No More Faith Schools campaign.](#)
- We have been at the forefront of challenging Government plans to open a new wave of fully religiously selective faith schools.
- We've lobbied ministers and met with the Department to express our objections to the removal of the 50% faith-based admissions cap. We also submitted [evidence to the DfE's 'Schools that work for everyone' consultation](#). As a result of our campaigning, the government [has abandoned its plans to remove the 50% cap](#).
- We play a prominent role in the ongoing national debate over the role of religion in schools and regularly lobby MPs and decision makers to promote our vision for a secular and inclusive education system.
- We regularly provide support and advice for parents who are experiencing difficulties regarding faith schools, from issues regarding admissions to problems with RE and collective worship. If you're having issues related to religion in schools and would like our support, [please contact us](#).
- In January 2017 we [submitted evidence](#) on Kellie Armstrong MLA's proposed Private Members Bill on integrated education. We welcomed proposals to boost integrated education, which brings children, staff and families from different religious and non-religious backgrounds together into the same schools.
- In April 2016 we [submitted evidence](#) to a DfE consultation on multi-academy trusts. We drew attention to how religious academy trusts are undermining the community ethos of many non-faith schools.

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## Specific faith school issues

- [School admissions](#)

No child should face discrimination for their parents' religion or belief.

[Read More](#)

- [Religiosity inspections](#)

Faith based inspections of state schools are an unnecessary drain on public funds, frame widely held values as exclusive, and promote biased religious education.

[Read More](#)

- [The choice delusion](#)

Three in ten families across England live in areas where most or all of the closest primary schools are faith schools and thousands are being assigned faith schools against their wishes.

[Read More](#)

- [Academisation](#)

Academisation has enabled faith groups to increase their influence over all schools, including those with no religious character. With little public debate, religious governance has increased, while secular oversight has diminished.

[Read More](#)

- [School transport](#)

Religious discrimination and privilege are widespread in school transport provision.

[Read More](#)

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**What you can do:**

## **Write to your MP**

Please consider lobbying your MP on faith schools, call on them to support a secular inclusive education system for all.

Enter Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Find my MP

- [Other representatives](#)

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

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

Faith schools cause a lot of problems with discrimination and proselytization, a lot of our casework is responding to people who need advice. In addition to the information below, please feel free to:

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

## Challenge a new faith school

If a new faith school is proposed in your local area, or it looks like a religious group is taking over a local non-faith school, you can report it to the **No More Faith Schools** campaign, and download their free guide to challenging this.

- [Find out more](#)

## 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](#)

## More information

- [Faith School Mythbuster](#)

10 common myths about faith schools busted

- [59% of teachers in England support an end to new faith schools](#)

Check out our range of faith school statistics.

- [End employment discrimination in faith schools](#)

Teachers can be blocked from jobs because of their beliefs and even sacked for being the 'wrong' religion. Protect their rights.

[Read More](#)

- [What types of school are there?](#)

With academies, VA, VC, community, grammar, faith and private schools it's hard to know what role religion plays in each type. Find out more.

[Read More](#)

- [Holding independent faith schools accountable](#)

The NSS does not oppose independent faith schools, but plays an important role in challenging abuses and protecting children's rights in the non-state sector.

[Read More](#)

- [Extreme, coercive and controlling practices](#)

[Read More](#)

- [Right to education](#)

Everybody has the right to an effective education. Parents have a limited right to ensure their religious or philosophical beliefs are respected, but this doesn't require the government to provide or subsidise any specific type of education.

[Read More](#)

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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](#)