

# DfE warned 12 more private faith schools over failures in one month

Posted: Thu, 10th May 2018

The Department for Education warned 12 independent faith schools that they were failing to meet the standards expected of them in November 2017, newly-published letters have revealed.

The DfE told the schools to address "serious regulatory failings" issues including gender segregation, the breadth of curricula and the preparation of children for life in British society. In some cases the schools had broken equality law.

Six of the schools were offering an Islamic education; three a Jewish one; and three a Christian one. The failings came to light during recent Ofsted inspections.

At [Fig Tree Primary School](#) in Nottingham, which [says](#) it provides an "Islamic education", inspectors noted failings in all eight categories of the [independent school standards](#).

One of the Islamic schools was Olive Secondary School in Bradford, where separate notices were issued to the boys' and girls' schools. At Olive Secondary Boys and Olive Secondary Girls around 200 boys and girls are educated separately by staff of their own gender.

Ofsted found that boys and girls at Olive were treated differently enough to affect their personal development. It said girls did not get regular opportunities for physical education and boys did not get the same quality of English teaching as girls. It also criticised the school for violating equality law by not accepting pupils with special educational needs.

Fig Tree, Olive Tree School (an Islamic school in south-east London) and Talmud Torah London (an orthodox Jewish school for boys aged five to seven) had failed to "encourage respect for other people".

Talmud Torah London was also criticised for failing to promote "fundamental British values", "tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions". Hope House School in Barnsley, which has a Christian ethos, was also subject to those criticisms.

The other Islamic schools were Tayyibah Girls' School in north London, Al-Furqan Community College in Birmingham and Date Valley School in Surrey. The other Jewish schools were Beis Soroh Schneirer and Beth Jacob Grammar School for Girls, both in north London. The other Christian schools were Luton Pentecostal Academy in Bedfordshire and Felixstowe International College in Suffolk.

All of the schools were criticised over the quality of their leadership and management. Ten were instructed to improve the quality of education they were providing. Six had failed to meet the standards on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Six had failed to safeguard pupils' welfare, health and safety.

The notices called on the schools to submit action plans, explaining how they intended to respond, by December. They were to be implemented by February and could be rejected at the secretary of state's discretion.

The DfE also published warning notices which were sent to 14 religiously unaffiliated independent schools.

A National Secular Society spokesperson said the faith schools "should be held to the same standard as those which are not religiously affiliated".

In 2014 the NSS [supported](#) the introduction of new independent school standards. In November 2017 Ofsted [said](#) almost half of independent faith schools had been rated as 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' since the introduction of the new standards.

This is the third round of warning notices to independent schools which the DfE has published this year. In March the reports outlined [failings](#) at six Islamic schools in London, Leicester and Wolverhampton. In February the notices [covered](#) nine schools, three of which were Islamic, one Orthodox Jewish and one Christian.

All private schools are measured against the independent school standards. Ofsted only inspects around 1,000 small schools in the private sector, as these do not belong to the Independent Schools Council.

*Schools Week* [reported](#) that Olive Secondary School was approached for comment.

## Share your story

Secularism isn't just about moral or theoretical arguments, it's about people's real lives. Telling your story can help our campaigns and others in similar situations.

- [Share your story](#)
- [Need advice?](#)
  
- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Faith schools](#)

## Related Campaigns

- 

### [No more faith schools](#)

We need inclusive schools free from religious discrimination, privilege or control.

[Read More](#)

## Related Articles

### [NSS announces major conference on protecting liberal values](#)

Kenan Malik, Joan Smith and more speaking at NSS Secularism 2024 conference in London. [Read More »](#)

### [Allowing more religious selection in schools would be a big mistake](#)

Abandoning the 50% admission cap would exacerbate the discrimination, disadvantage and division inherent with faith schools, argues Stephen Evans. [Read More »](#)

### [NSS joins open letter against faith school discrimination](#)

Education experts, politicians, religious leaders and public figures unite to call on Education Secretary to keep the faith school admissions cap. [Read More »](#)

### [Faith school found inadequate for ten years fails inspection again](#)

Jewish school where teachers slapped children criticised for poor secular education in latest inspection. [Read More »](#)

### [NSS urges PM to retain cap on faith-based admissions](#)

Supporters of inclusive schools encouraged to tell MPs to protect the 50% cap. [Read More »](#)