Two independent Jewish schools banned from admitting new pupils

Posted: Thu, 21st Oct 2021

Two independent Jewish schools in London have been barred from admitting new pupils after inspectors identified serious and persistent failings.

The Department for Education (DfE) published enforcement notices last week which it sent to the schools in August. The enforcement action prevents the schools from admitting new pupils.

Bnois Jerusalem Girls School was given a statutory notice in 2018 after it failed to meet standards in multiple inspections.

Its most recent Ofsted inspection in March found that "teaching about the scientific theories behind the origins of [the diversity of] life" was "completely omitted".

The report also said the content of the school's secular curriculum "remains narrow" and pupils were "not allowed to talk about" same-sex relationships or gender reassignment "at any time".

The school's previous failings have included teaching creationism in geography and science and failing to enter pupils for exams at GCSE level because leaders were not allowed to censor exam papers.

TTD Gur School, an all-boys school, failed to meet all standards inspected in March. The inspection report said its plans for teaching personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education did not include "opportunities to learn about the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010", including "the roles of women".

It said the school's secular subject curriculum was "weak", and pupils did not have enough opportunities to learn about Britain, other cultures and other countries.

The inspector was unable to find out about how pupils respect people from different backgrounds, because school leaders did not permit the inspector to discuss anything with pupils aside from "safety, safeguarding, learning, behaviour and bullying".

Leaders were unable to provide a curriculum policy or schemes of work for the subjects taught, the report said. Leaders could not show how they promote "mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs" or fundamental British values.

NSS head of education Alastair Lichten said: "These schools are failing because they prioritise religious indoctrination over teaching children the knowledge they need to prepare them for adult life.

"No school, whatever its ethos, should be allowed to deprive its pupils of their basic right to a suitable education."

"The DfE is right to take action. But if these schools continue to refuse to provide a decent standard of education, they must be closed down."

While you're here

Our news and opinion content is an important part of our campaigns work. Many articles involve a lot of research by our campaigns team. If you value this output, please consider supporting us today.

- Support us from just £1 a month

- 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

NI assembly votes in favour of inclusive, evidence-based RSE

MLAs speak of "twisted" RSE teaching that thoughts of sex are "sinful" and same-sex relationships "laughed at". Read More »

Faith school takeover proceeds despite overwhelming opposition

NSS: Governors 'concealing' strength of feeling against Church of England ethos. Read More »

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 »](#)