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### [Election 2019: pledges that should be in the parties' manifestos](#)

Posted: Tue, 05 Nov 2019 by [Stephen Evans](#)

As the UK's political parties consider their manifestos for the upcoming election, Stephen Evans outlines a series of secularist pledges they should include to advance freedom, fairness and equal citizenship. [Read More »](#)

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### [The chief rabbi has made an anti-democratic attempt to shut down criticism](#)

Posted: Wed, 18 Sep 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The chief rabbi has asked secularists to stop campaigning against practices such as faith schools and infant circumcision. His apparently polite request should be firmly rejected, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Freedom of Expression](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Circumcision](#)

### [Why are we letting faith schools stigmatise same-sex relationships?](#)

Posted: Thu, 11 Jul 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Ofsted penalises schools that refuse to teach about LGBT people, but seems to ignore other schools that teach same-sex relationships are morally wrong. Megan Manson says this double standard needs to end. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [RSE](#), [Faith schools](#), [Education](#)

## What might Catholic schools teach about transgender and intersex people?

Posted: Fri, 14 Jun 2019 by [Megan Manson](#)

Megan Manson examines a new document outlining the Catholic Church's position on issues relating to sex and gender, and explains how this may lead to conflict in Catholic Schools. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [RSE](#), [Catholic Church](#)

## Integrated communities require inclusive, secular schools

Posted: Tue, 12 Feb 2019 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

A government plan on integration sets out a positive vision on education - but faith schools remain the elephant in the room. Alastair Lichten asks if ministers' actions will match their rhetoric. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [unregistered schools](#), [Independent schools](#), [admissions](#)

## Unravelling the choice delusion

Posted: Mon, 10 Dec 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

We often hear that faith schools improve choice. But an NSS report shows that this narrative mischaracterises the challenges facing families and public education's role in a diverse society, says Alastair Lichten. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [admissions](#)

## Church schools are faith schools. Pretending otherwise is dishonest

Posted: Fri, 20 Jul 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

*The Church of England's pretence that 'its' schools aren't faith schools is a dishonest attempt to avoid association with the unpopularity of faith-based schooling, and at odds with their actual policy, argues Alastair Lichten.*

When the term 'faith school'... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Church of England](#), [Faith Schools](#)

## [Sectarian schooling is nothing to celebrate](#)

Posted: Fri, 13 Jul 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*Integrating schools isn't a magic bullet to end sectarianism, but no serious attempt to address the issue can ignore the role of religiously segregated schools, argues Stephen Evans.*

Last week, as Catholic worshippers were leaving Saturday evening Mass in Glasgow... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Faith Schools](#), [Sectarianism](#)

## [Seven secularist steps that would strengthen democracy in the UK](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Jul 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

*In recognition of National Democracy Week 2018, Megan Manson reflects on what still needs to be changed to make the UK a truly democratic, secular state.*

This year's [National Democracy Week](#) is special because it also commemorates the 90th anniversary of the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Secularism](#), [Church of England](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Council prayers](#), [Head of state](#), [One law for all](#), [Freedom of Expression](#)

## [Religion and politics – the discrepancy at the heart of our schools](#)

Posted: Tue, 12 Jun 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

*Schools are forbidden from promoting, showing favouritism to or discriminating on the grounds of partisan politics. Alastair Lichten asks why partisan religious beliefs are treated so differently.*

Sections [406 and 407](#) of the Education Act 1996 (applying to... [Read More »](#)

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## [The government's U-turn shows the tide is turning against faith schools](#)

Posted: Fri, 18 May 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*The decision not to allow more faith-based admissions to new free schools in England is a big win, says Stephen Evans. But the expansion of faith schools is the wrong response to Britain's growing*

*religious diversity.*

The government's U-turn on its manifesto... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Fifty percent cap](#)

## **How secularism cuts the Gordian knot in education**

Posted: Fri, 18 May 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

*Faith schools' approach to admissions and sex education reminds us that religious groups' interests often conflict with those of society. Megan Manson says the only answer to this is to separate education from religion.*

When we tie religion and state together,... [Read More »](#)

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## **Faith schools: why reducing the harm isn't enough**

Posted: Mon, 23 Apr 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

*We can mitigate the harm caused by faith schools in plenty of ways. But after the launch of the No More Faith Schools campaign, Alastair Lichten says the long-term battle is over the fact faith groups run schools at all.*

I spent a lot of Friday reading though... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Admissions](#)

## **We can't build a shared society around segregated schools**

Posted: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

*Our education and schools officer examines the education proposals in the Government's new integration strategy, arguing they should lead to a wider discussion of children's rights and facing up to the religious segregation rife in education.*

When we talk about... [Read More »](#)

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## **Sturgeon's praise for Catholic schools will exacerbate Scotland's tribal divisions**

Posted: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 by [Neil Barber](#)

*Catholic schools are no remedy for a society facing ingrained sectarian division, writes Neil Barber. In praising them Scotland's first minister has shown a willingness to sacrifice social cohesion to reach a block vote.*

Often referred to as "Scotland's shame",... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Scotland](#), [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Catholic Church](#)

## **Schools and segregation: a lesson from France**

Posted: Tue, 30 Jan 2018 by [Keith Sharpe](#)

*The Government is preparing to extend religious selection in faith schools. Keith Sharpe contrasts its willingness to cause greater segregation with French efforts to encourage integration in the wake of terror attacks.*

For secularists interested in education... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Fifty percent cap](#), [Admissions](#), [Faith schools](#), [Unregistered schools](#), [France](#)

## **Faith School Admissions: Four Myths Busted**

Posted: Mon, 22 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

*Megan Manson takes on common myths about the 50% cap on children admitted on religious grounds to faith schools.*

It's unpleasant enough that any institution would turn away a child on the basis of their parents' beliefs. When it's a state-funded school, it's... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [admissions](#), [Fifty percent cap](#)

## **The David and Goliath battle in our schools: parents versus religion**

Posted: Thu, 11 Jan 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

*As NSS research highlights a systemic bias against secular schooling, Megan Manson explores the tactics used by religion to infiltrate education – and how parents are fighting back.*

In November, the National Secular Society got a call from a parent whose... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Casework focus](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Evangelism in schools](#), [Academisation](#)

## **Intolerant religion mustn't dictate England's education policy**

Posted: Wed, 26 Jul 2017 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*The government is under fire over proposals to lift the cap on faith-based admissions in faith schools. Stephen Evans says the plans should be abandoned - and religious groups' role in education rolled back.*

Following [criticism of the government's divisive...](#) [Read More »](#)

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## **The PM must be held to account for her faith school obsession**

Posted: Thu, 20 Jul 2017 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

*Theresa May's plans to expand faith schools in Britain are ill-judged. In response, Chris Sloggett argues, it is up to secularists to make a principled case: state education must be grounded in reason and free intellectual enquiry.*

Books in the library promoting... [Read More »](#)

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## **Separate is not equal — not in this 'faith' school**

Posted: Tue, 11 Jul 2017 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*Turning a blind eye to discriminatory gender discrimination in Islamic schools would be disaster for future generations of British girls growing up in Muslim communities, argues Stephen Evans.*

I was in court this week for Ofsted's appeal of a ruling that gender... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#), [Gender Equality](#)

## **Why are we still allowing religion to retard young people's education and health rights?**

Posted: Thu, 09 Mar 2017 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*The Government's proposals on Relationships and Sex Education are a welcome step in the right direction – but religious opt outs mean many children will continue to be left behind, writes Stephen Evans.*

The Government's move to make Relationships and... [Read More »](#)

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## [A faith-based education system is deeply inefficient](#)

Posted: Tue, 07 Mar 2017 by [Benjamin Jones](#)

*Both the Government and the Labour Party have wilful blind spots around faith schools, and as the Government looks set to launch a new wave of faith schools amid an education funding crisis, how can such an inefficient system be justified?*

The Prime Minister... [Read More »](#)

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## [Faith schools mustn't be allowed to stymie young people's sexual health and well-being](#)

Posted: Thu, 12 Jan 2017 by [Stephen Evans](#)

*Political sensitivity about faith schools is getting in the way of providing evidence-based, age-appropriate sex and relationships education (SRE) to all children. We can't wait forever for the Government's proposals on SRE, writes Stephen Evans.*

The latest... [Read More »](#)

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## [A faith ethos is no magic solution for improving schools](#)

Posted: Sat, 07 Jan 2017 by [Alistair McBay](#)

*There are success stories and failures in schools of all types, including faith schools, despite what the churches would have people believe. NSS vice president Alistair McBay debunks the myth that 'faith school' is a byword for success.*

2016 was another interesting... [Read More »](#)

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