

Number of religious Free School proposals from 2011-13

Following on from a Freedom of Information (FoI) requests by the British Humanist Association (BHA), the Department for Education (DfE) has released [details](#) of 'faith ethos' Free School applications in the 'third wave' (i.e. opening from 2013), and [details](#) of Free Schools formally designated with a religious character in the second (i.e. from 2012) and third waves. The BHA has supplemented this with its own research into the 'faith ethos' of proposals in the first (i.e. from 2011) and second waves and the religious character of proposals in the first wave.

Full BHA spreadsheet: <http://humanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/List-of-proposed-Free-Schools.xlsx>

DfE sources:

- <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/foi/disclosuresaboutschoools/a00221774/wave-1-2-free-school-la-school-name-faith-designation>
- <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/foi/disclosuresaboutschoools/a00221783/wave3-free-school-name-la-prior-name-faith>
- <http://humanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/FOI-request-Richy-Thompson-Wave-3-faith-ethos-data-1.pdf>

The BHA cannot guarantee the accuracy of its own research, but has taken every effort to ensure that the research is accurate. In addition, the BHA has been unable to identify the 'faith ethos' or religious character of every proposal in waves one and two.

Total across all three waves (opening from 2011-13)

No of applications: 831 (197 pre-approved to open)

No the BHA has been able to identify the religion/belief of: 659

Total faith: 300 (204 designated, 85 ethos, 10 unsure), plus 27 Steiner and 3 Maharishi for 330 total – although two of those 300 are 'Christian Education Europe Ltd' and 'Focus Learning Trust' (i.e. Exclusive Brethren), both single entries for many schools at 'Multiple, unspecified locations'

Total faith pre-approved: 61 (40 designated, 21 ethos), plus 2 Steiner and 1 Maharishi for 64 total

Percentage faith of total: At least 36% (25% designated, 10% ethos, 1% unsure), plus 4% Steiner and Maharishi for 40% total

Percentage faith of those identified: 46% (31% designated, 13% ethos, 2% unsure), plus 5% Steiner and Maharishi for 50.1% total

Percentage faith amongst those pre-approved: 31% (20% designated, 11% ethos), plus 2% Steiner and Maharishi for 32% total

Full breakdown:

- 32 Church of England (15 successful)
- 8 Catholic (2 successful)
- 9 Accelerated Christian Education (0 successful – including the 'Christian Education Europe Ltd' entry, and one that is also Christian Schools Trust)
- 10 Christian Schools Trust (0 successful – including one that is also Accelerated Christian Education)
- 15 Plymouth Brethren (0 successful – including the 'Focus Learning Trust' entry)
- 2 Greek Orthodox (1 successful)
- 1 Russian Orthodox (0 successful)
- 111 other Christian (19 successful)
- 80 Muslim (5 successful)

- 13 Sikh (7 successful)
- 12 Jewish (6 successful)
- 3 Hindu (2 successful)
- 1 'Hindu/Buddhist/Ghandian' (0 successful – the first ever proposal for a Buddhist state school?)
- 1 Satanist (0 successful)
- 1 'All faiths' (1 successful)
- 27 Steiner (2 successful)
- 3 Maharishi (1 successful)
- 329 not faith (134 successful)

Wave 1 (opening from 2011)

No of applications: 323 (33 pre-approved to open)

No the BHA has been able to identify the religion/belief of: 203

Total faith: 103 (71 designated, 21 ethos, 10 unsure), plus 17 Steiner and 1 Maharishi for 121 total – although two of those 103 are 'Christian Education Europe Ltd' and 'Focus Learning Trust' (ie Exclusive Brethren), both single entries for many schools at 'Multiple, unspecified locations'

Total faith pre-approved: 11 (8 designated, 3 ethos), plus 1 Maharishi for 12 total

Percentage faith of total: At least 32% (22% designated, 7% ethos, 3% unsure), plus 6% Steiner and Maharishi for 37% total

Percentage faith of those identified: 51% (35% designated, 10% ethos, 5% unsure), plus 9% Steiner and Maharishi for 60% total

Percentage faith amongst those pre-approved: 33% (24% designated, 9% ethos), plus 3% Maharishi for 36% total

Full breakdown:

- 8 Church of England (2 successful)
- 4 Catholic (0 successful)
- 8 Accelerated Christian Education (0 successful – including the 'Christian Education Europe Ltd' entry, and one that is also Christian Schools Trust)
- 8 Christian Schools Trust (0 successful – including one that is also Accelerated Christian Education)
- 1 Plymouth Brethren entry (0 successful – including the 'Focus Learning Trust' entry)
- 1 Russian Orthodox (0 successful)
- 33 other Christian (3 successful)
- 33 Muslim (1 successful)
- 4 Sikh (1 successful)
- 2 Jewish (2 successful)
- 1 Hindu (1 successful)
- 1 Satanist (0 successful)
- 17 Steiner (0 successful)
- 1 Maharishi (1 successful)
- 82 not faith (21 successful)

Wave 2 (opening from 2012)

No of applications: 273 (62 pre-approved to open)

No the BHA has been able to identify the religion/belief of: 221

Total faith: 104 (79 designated, 25 ethos), plus 7 Steiner for 111 total

Total faith pre-approved: 14 (11 designated, 3 ethos), plus 1 Steiner for 15 total

Percentage faith of total: At least 38% (29% designated, 9% ethos), plus 3% Steiner for 41% total

Percentage faith of those identified: 47% (36% designated, 11% ethos), plus 3% Steiner for 50% total

Percentage faith amongst those pre-approved: 23% (18% designated, 5% ethos), plus 2% Steiner for 24% total

Full breakdown:

- 8 Church of England (3 successful)
- 1 Catholic (1 successful)
- 1 Accelerated Christian Education (0 successful)
- 11 Plymouth Brethren (0 successful)
- 1 Greek Orthodox (0 successful)
- 53 other Christian (6 successful)
- 21 Muslim (0 successful)
- 2 Sikh (1 successful)
- 4 Jewish (1 successful)
- 1 Hindu (1 successful)
- 1 All faiths (0 successful)
- 7 Steiner (1 successful)
- 110 not faith (47 successful)

Wave 3 (opening from 2013)

No of applications: 235 (102 pre-approved to open)

Total faith: 93 (54 designated, 39 ethos), plus 3 Steiner and 2 Maharishi for 98 total

Total faith pre-approved: 36 (21 designated, 15 ethos), plus 1 Steiner for 37 total

Percentage faith: 40% (23% designated, 17% ethos), plus 2% Steiner or Maharishi for 42% total

Percentage faith amongst those pre-approved: 35% (21% designated, 15% ethos), plus 1% Steiner for 36% total

Full breakdown:

- 16 Church of England (10 successful)
- 3 Catholic (1 successful)
- 2 Christian Schools Trust (0 successful)
- 3 Plymouth Brethren (0 successful)
- 1 Greek Orthodox (1 successful)
- 25 other Christian (10 successful)
- 26 Muslim (4 successful)
- 7 Sikh (5 successful)
- 6 Jewish (3 successful)
- 1 Hindu (0 successful)
- 1 'Hindu/Buddhist/Ghandian' (0 successful – the first ever proposal for a Buddhist state school?)
- 1 'All faiths' (1 successful)
- 3 Steiner (1 successful)
- 2 Maharishi (0 successful)
- 137 not faith (66 successful)