

Number of religious Free School proposals in 2014

Following on from a Freedom of Information (FoI) requests by the British Humanist Association (BHA), the Department for Education (DfE) has released [details](#) of Free School applications in the 'fourth wave' (i.e. opening from 2014).

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

Total across wave 4 (opening from 2014)

No of applications: 263 (102 pre-approved to open)

Total faith: 74 (44 designated, 30 ethos), plus 3 Steiner and 1 Maharishi for 78 total

Total faith pre-approved: 28 (15 designated, 13 ethos), plus 1 Steiner for 29 total

Percentage faith: 28% (17% designated, 11% ethos), plus 2% Steiner or Maharishi for 30% total

Percentage faith pre-approved: 27% (15% designated, 13% ethos), plus 1% Steiner for 28% total

Full breakdown:

- 8 Church of England (5 successful)
- 2 Catholic (2 successful)
- 1 Plymouth Brethren (0 successful)
- 2 Seventh-Day Adventist (0 successful)
- 22 other Christian (11 successful)
- 24 Muslim (6 successful)
- 7 Sikh (3 successful)
- 1 Jewish (0 successful)
- 7 Hindu (0 successful)
- 1 'General faith' (1 successful)
- 3 Steiner (1 successful)
- 1 Maharishi (0 successful)
- 184 not faith (73 successful)

Errors in DfE data with pre-approved schools

The BHA believes the DfE has made the following errors which have been corrected in the above numbers:

- Holy Trinity International School – DfE says None, but the BHA believes Roman Catholic ethos, as per [the school's charitable framework](#)
- Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn – DfE says None, but but the BHA believes Christian ethos, as per [the school's website](#)
- Walthamstow Primary Academy – DfE says None, but but the BHA believes Christian Designated as per the [United Learning Trust's press release](#)

The BHA is also a little surprised that one of the three Aspire Academies is Church of England but the other two are None. However, we have nothing to suggest this is an error.