

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Free Schools: Religion

John Hayes (Conservative) [205192] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the religious character is of existing free schools.

Anne Milton: The department publishes information on the religious character of all schools, including free schools, on the Get Information about Schools website. As set out in the table below, of the 442 free schools open as of 1 January 2019, 76 have a faith designation.

Schools designated with a religious character have specific freedoms over how they deliver religious education, appoint staff and their admissions.

Faith	Designation
Christian	11
Church of England Church	22
Church of England/Christian	1
Greek Orthodox	1
Hindu	5
Jewish	6
Multi-Faith	3
Muslim	17
Orthodox Jewish	1
Sikh	9
Total	76

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205192/>

Teachers: Qualifications

Lyn Brown (Labour) [205237] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2018 to Question 197426 on Teachers: Qualifications, what steps he is taking to ensure that more teachers of religious education have a relevant post

A-level qualification in that subject.

Nick Gibb: The Government is committed to supporting schools in recruiting well qualified teachers in religious education (RE), although the responsibility for making recruitment decisions rightly rests with schools, including what specialist qualifications and experience individual teachers are expected to hold.

To support recruitment efforts for postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses the Department is offering a £9,000 bursary for all RE trainees with at least a 2:2 degree classification, starting in 2019/20.

RE ITT applicants are also now eligible for one to one support from our expert Teacher Training Advisers, to guide them through their journey into teaching. They can access this support by registering with Get into Teaching.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205237/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-29/197426/>

Schools: Radicalism

Mike Gapes (Labour Co-op) [204374] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to improve Ofsted's inspection regime for small private schools to combat extremism and radicalisation.

Anne Milton: All schools, including independent schools, are required to safeguard children from harm. This includes the harm of radicalisation and extremism. In addition to their statutory safeguarding obligations, under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, schools are subject to the Prevent duty which requires them to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Under the Prevent duty, and as set out in the Teachers’ Standards and Independent School Standards, schools must actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Ofsted’s inspection framework is already clear that all schools must promote these values and adhere to the Prevent duty. All inspectors are trained to inspect under the framework and Ofsted also has inspectors with specialist counter-extremism skills and experience. The department continues to work with Ofsted to learn from the findings of its inspections and ensure the department’s work continues to support the sector to effectively implement the Prevent duty.

All maintained schools and academies are inspected by Ofsted, as are just under half of all independent schools. Those independent schools not inspected by Ofsted are subject to inspections by the Independent Schools Inspectorate or the School Inspection Service.

The Teachers’ Standards can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/665520/Teachers_Standards.pdf

The Independent School Standards can be found here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/schedule/made>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204374/>

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House of Commons Written Answers

Middle East: Overseas Aid

John Hayes (Conservative) [205197] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much overseas aid the UK provided to (a) Israel and (b) the Palestinian Territories in each of the last five years.

Alistair Burt: Israel is not eligible to receive official development assistance (ODA) according to the international definition controlled by the OECD Development Assistance Committee. The following gives United Kingdom (UK) ODA provided to West Bank and Gaza Strip in the last five years.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
UK ODA £million	92.4	119.9	85.5	56.2	99.9

Source: Statistics on International Development.

Note: These figures include UK funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and funding from all Government Departments, including the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205197/>

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [205408] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what proportion of Overseas Development Assistance to the Palestinian Authority has been spent on the Palestinian Authority Martyrs Fund in each year for which information is available.

Alistair Burt: No UK aid is used for prisoner payments or the fund to which you refer. UK aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is used exclusively to pay the salaries of vetted health and education public servants, including teachers, doctors and nurses, in the West Bank. Our money goes into a special, dedicated bank account before being paid to individuals who have been vetted in advance through the European Union Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE), ensuring UK funding is not diverted. The UK has never allocated aid to the Martyrs Fund to which you refer and we have always had financial safeguards in place to ensure UK aid reaches the intended beneficiaries. UK aid to the PA in 2018 helped immunise up to 3,700 children, provide around 185,000 medical consultations, and educate around 24,000 young Palestinians.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205408/>

Department for International Development

Memorandums of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the Department for International Development and the Palestinian Authority, 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0041/SSRP_1_Redacted.pdf

and

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0041/SSRP_2_Redacted_Corrected.pdf

and

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0041/SSRP_3_MoU.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/internationaldevelopmentassistancepalestiniannationalauthoritieschools.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/palestinianstatehoodrecognition.html>

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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Consultations ** new or updated today

**** closes in 2 days**

Connected communities – Tackling loneliness and social isolation (Wales)

(closing date 15 January 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/connected-communities-tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

**** closes in 3 days**

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

Extremism in England and Wales (closing date 31 January 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extremism-in-england-and-wales-call-for-evidence>

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

Draft guidance to challenge bullying in schools [Wales only] (closing date 15 February 2019)
<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-challenge-bullying-schools>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)
<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22
(closing date 15 March 2019)
<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/ni-human-rights-commission-draft-strategic-plan-2019-2022-consultation>

Scottish charity law (closing date 1 April 2019)
<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438