

# PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAGUE TABLES 2013: FAITH SCHOOLS 'DOMINATE OFFICIAL RANKINGS'

**Primary school league tables show that almost two-thirds of the top performers were faith schools, even though they make up just a third of all state primaries in England**

According to school-by-school league tables, some 549 primaries saw every pupil reaching the expected standard in the three-Rs.

Faith schools dominated new league tables in the three-Rs today despite claims that they boost results by effectively selecting bright pupils "by the backdoor".

Official rankings published by the Department for Education showed that six-in-10 of the top performing primaries were Church of England, Roman Catholic or Jewish schools.

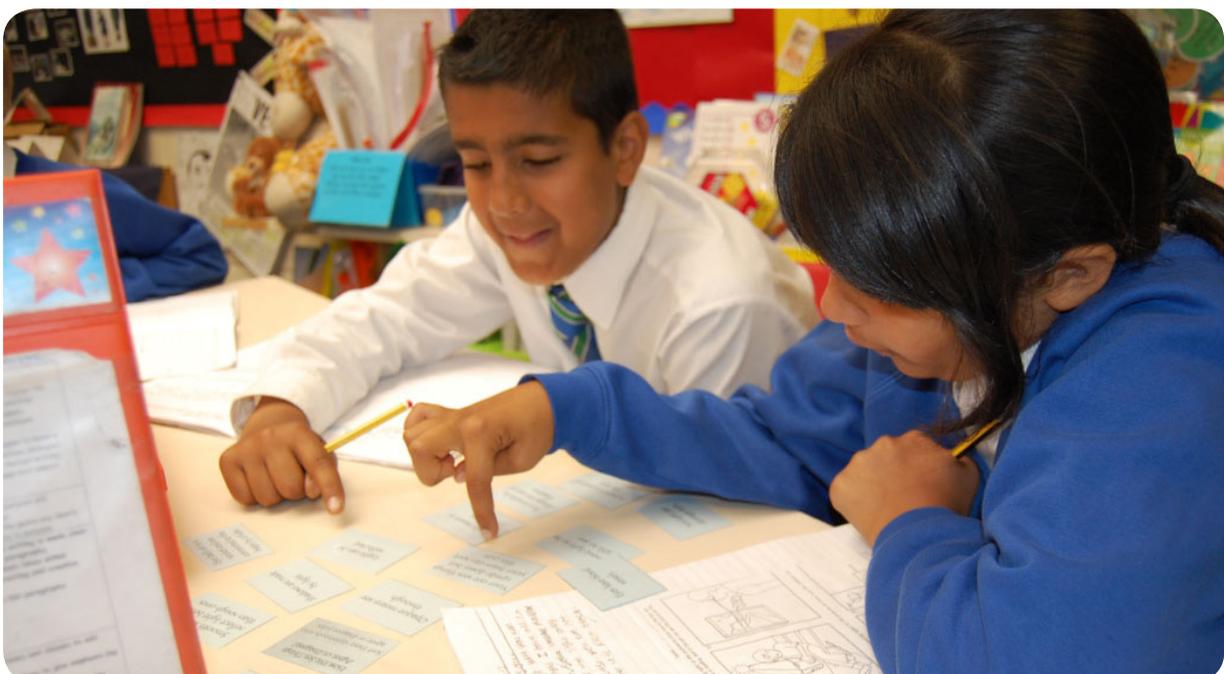
Faith schools – which make up just a third of primaries nationally – were significantly over-represented in the list of the schools that



registered "perfect" results in the three-Rs, it was revealed.

The majority of top-performers were Anglican and Bowdon CofE primary in Altrincham was named as England's second-best school.

But the disclosure is likely to renew the debate over the admissions policies used by faith schools which often prioritise believers over other local pupils.





The Church of England’s head of education has insisted that Anglican schools perform well because of their “distinctive ethos, rooted in Christian values”, with teachers developing children’s “social, spiritual and emotional intelligence... alongside their academic performance”.

In a recent article, The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd John Pritchard, said schools “fully reflect the society in which we live” and were not dominated by “white, middle class pupils”.

But the British Humanist Association warned today that schools were “unrepresentative” of their local communities.

It was claimed that leading faith schools had 23 per cent fewer pupils eligible for free meals than would have been expected in their surrounding area.

Richy Thompson, BHA campaigns officer, said research had shown that “any difference in academic performance between faith schools and other schools is solely due to the different intakes of each school”.

All children aged 11 are expected to gain “Level 4” in reading, writing and maths.

According to school-by-school league tables, some 549 primaries saw every pupil reaching the expected standard in the three-Rs.

Of those, 328 or 60 per cent were faith schools.

Figures show that 242 were Anglican schools, 81 were Catholic, three were generic Christian schools and two were Jewish.

A separate table ranked all schools by highest average points score gained by pupils, with an elite Level 6 worth 39 points while a low Level 2 carries just 15.

Fox Primary School in West London had the highest score with 34.1.

But Bowdon CofE primary was second with 34.0.

Five other faith schools were in the top 10: Bishop Gilpin CofE in London, Chislehurst (St Nicholas) CofE in Kent, King David Jewish primary in Manchester, The Queen’s CofE primary in Richmond-upon-Thames and North Cheshire Jewish primary in Cheadle.

