



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

21 June 2017

Department of Education and Children

Rheynn Ynsee as Paitchyn

Re: Freedom of Information Request – Reference Number IM90340I

Your Request

i) Please confirm whether or not Creationism (defined as: the belief that the universe and living organisms originate from specific acts of divine creation, as in the biblical account, rather than by natural processes such as evolution.) is taught or discussed in any Isle of Man School either by a) Department teachers/ancillary teachers or b) non department visiting speakers/people

ii) If any representative of the Living Hope Church has visited any Isle of Man School to discuss any subject matter (either formally or informally) with any pupil(s)

iii) How many times any representative of the Living Hope Church has visited any Isle of Man School to discuss any subject matter (either formally or informally) with any pupil(s)

Department Response

The Department is pleased to provide you with the following and attached information in response to your Freedom of Information request. This information will also be published on the Government website in due course should you wish to revisit the information.

- 1) Yes, creationism is taught or discussed in Isle of Man schools as a biblical account of the creation of the world alongside other beliefs, in balance with other ideas and theories such as the 'Big Bang' theory and the theory of evolution. Where it is taught or discussed in schools, this is predominantly undertaken during school assemblies by Department Teachers or during Religious Education lessons. However, it is made clear that this is one of a number of religious beliefs and in no way as a statement of fact. Please refer to column B of the attached table.
 - 2) Yes, representatives of the Living Hope Church have visited some Isle of Man schools to discuss subject matters with any pupils. See column C of the attached table for further information relating to your request.
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- 3) Please refer to column E of the attached table in response to your question about how many times representatives of the Living Hope Church has visited any Isle of Man school to discuss any subject matter.

In connection with visitors to schools, it may be the case that members of the Living Hope Church attend in capacities other than their church affiliation. They may attend as a wider group of people who are delivering an assembly not connected with their church membership. The content of assemblies are based around IOM learning dispositions, they are not an overtly religious nature. Members of the Living Hope Church may also attend clubs/activities, e.g. 'Open the Book' sessions or Scripture Union.

For these clubs and activities attendance by pupils is optional and not compulsory.

If you are unhappy with this response to your Freedom of Information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a Review/Complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post to: Mr Andrew Shipley, Legal and Administration Manager, Hamilton House, Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 5EZ.

An electronic version of our Review/Complaint form can be found by going to <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/freedom-of-information/>

Your Review/Complaint request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been conducted.

Appeal Process

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

- 1 Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act; or
- 2 Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested.

In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your rights to review is on the Information Commissioner's website at <https://www.inforights.im/contact-us/>

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about Freedom of Information requests can be found at www.gov.im/foi

A	B	C	D	E
School	Is creationism taught/discussed by a) Department staff, b) non-department staff (x = not taught or discussed)	Has any representative of the Living Hope Church visited any Isle of Man schools to discuss any subject matter (either formally or informally) with any pupil(s)		How many times has any representative of the Living Hope Church visited any Isle of Man school to discuss any subject matter (either formally or informally) with any pupil(s)
	Taught or discussed	Yes	No	
Anagh Coar	x		No	None
Andreas	x		No	None
Arbory	a		No	None
Ashley Hill	a		No	None
Ballacottier	x		No	None
Ballasalla	a		No	None
Ballaugh	a		No	N/A
Braddan	a		No	None
Bunscoill Ghaelgaah	a		No	None
Bunscoill Rhumsaa	a + b	Yes		Approximately 4 to 5 times a year
Cronk Y Berry	a + b	Yes		Once or twice per year
Dhoon	a + b		No	None
Foxdale	x		No	None
Henry Bloom Noble	x		No	None
Jurby	a + b	Yes		Approximately 4 to 5 times a year
Kewalque	a		No	None
Laxey	a		No	None
Manor Park	x		No	None
Marown	a + b		No	None
Michael	a + b		No	None
Onchan	x		No	None
Peel Clothworkers'	x	Yes		None
Phurt le Moirrey	a	Yes		4 times this school year
Rushen	x		No	None
Scoill Yn Jubilee	x		No	None
St John's	x		No	None
St Marys RC	x		No	None
St Thomas' C of E	x		No	None
Sulby	x		No	None
Vallaieelt	x		No	None
Victoria Road	a + b		No	None
Willaston	x		No	None
Ballakermeen High School	a		No	None
Castle Rushen High School	a + b	Yes		4 this academic year
Queen Elizabeth II High School	a + b	Yes		Twice
Ramsey Grammar School	a + b			None
St Ninian's Higher/Lower School	a + b			None