

# Hostility towards Christianity shown in the Trojan Horse reports

## Summary

Between them, the official reports by [Peter Clarke](#) and [Ian Kershaw](#) into Islamic extremism in the 'Trojan Horse' schools found:

- Anti-Christian chanting in assembly;
- Christians being called "ignorant" or "liars" by a teacher;
- Schools failing to comply with the statutory requirement for RE to be in the main Christian;
- Christianity only being taught because of an Education Funding Agency inspection;
- Christmas and Easter celebrations being cancelled or Islamic songs and prayers at a Christmas concert instead of carols;
- Children who opted to study Christianity at GCSE having to teach themselves.

[Report into allegations concerning Birmingham schools arising from the 'Trojan Horse' letter](#), July 2014, Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM

[Investigation Report: Trojan Horse letter](#), July 2014, Ian Kershaw

## Extracts

"The five students at Golden Hillock who opted to study the Christianity paper at GCSE sit separately in RE classes and teach themselves" [Clarke report, page 36]

"Before Christmas 2013, one of the teachers at Oldknow led two assemblies. These were not held on Friday and were not expected to be Islamic. During the assemblies he made statements such as 'Jesus wasn't born in Bethlehem, was he?', to which the children were expected to reply 'No'. He allegedly carried on 'We don't celebrate Christmas do we?'. Again, the children were expected to reply 'No.'" [Clarke report, page 43]

"Staff at Golden Hillock reported that a teacher leading prayers gave a sermon during which he said that Christians and Jews were ignorant." [Clarke report, pages 43-44]

"It has been alleged that Park View School exhibits many of the most concerning features reported to this investigation. It is only fair to point out the Trust disputed most, if not all, of the following allegations:

- ...
- an assembly where pupils were told that if they did not pray they were worse than a kaffir (a derogatory term for non-Muslims), supported by a poster with the same message;
- anti-Christian and anti-Israeli indoctrination of children at assembly;
- ...
- attempts to stop Christmas celebrations" [Clarke report, page 52].

Evidence of individuals "seeking to promote and encourage Islamic principles in the schools with which they are involved, for example, by seeking to introduce Islamic collective worship, or raising objections to elements of the school curriculum that are viewed as anti-Islamic for example, sex education, mixed physical education or citizenship. There is a concern as to whether this has led to breaches of the relevant schools' statutory obligations. Section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996 requires that every syllabus of religious education 'shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.' The evidence suggests that there may be a small handful of schools where this is not the case." [Kershaw report, page 24]

"We were also informed that in March 2013, a teacher [REDACTED] stated during Friday prayers that 'other religions do not exist and there is only one God.'" [Kershaw report, page 27]

"[REDACTED] reported that during an assembly a teacher told children not to listen to Christians as they were all liars... [REDACTED] referred to a teacher telling children they were lucky to be Muslims and not ignorant like Christians and Jews." [Kershaw report, page 27]

"We were informed that after Nansen became an Academy, teaching materials were provided by Park View and Christmas and Diwali celebrations no longer took place." [Kershaw report, page 29]

"We are told that in or around December 2013, a Christmas assembly was held during which statements were made that children should not be sending Christmas cards, that Jesus was not born of Mary and that it was unbelievable that Christians believe in the Christmas story; children were encouraged to chant 'No, we don't' when asked questions such as 'Do we celebrate or believe in Christmas?' and whether they believed that Jesus was born on Christmas day." [Kershaw report, page 29]

"The Education Funding Agency's report dated May 2014 stated that:

- the Academy is increasingly Islamic in its vision, ethos and day-to-day operations, for example, removal of music from summer pantomime, cancellation of Easter, Diwali and Christmas performances, removal of summer fair stalls associated with gambling, and staff reports that Christianity had been added to learning only because of EFA's visit;" [Kershaw report, page 29]

"We were also informed of a concern regarding wider segregation as a result of certain practices at the school, such as: segregation in assemblies and some classrooms; racist content in assemblies, such as telling children that they would not gain employment due to the colour of their skin; school posters with comments such as 'if you do not pray you will go to hell'; sex education classes which purported to quote the Quran as stating that 'if a woman said no to sex with her husband then the angels would punish her from dusk till dawn,' (there are conflicting reports of whether or not a complaint in relation to this was addressed by the school); discrimination against women; and Islamic songs and prayer at the Christmas concert instead of carols." [Kershaw report, page 32]