



BIG CONVO

Meetup

What's the cost of an
education without God?

21 July 2018 / 4:25pm / N7 6PA

Thank you for coming

Welcome to the Big Convo

Where small talk doesn't happen.

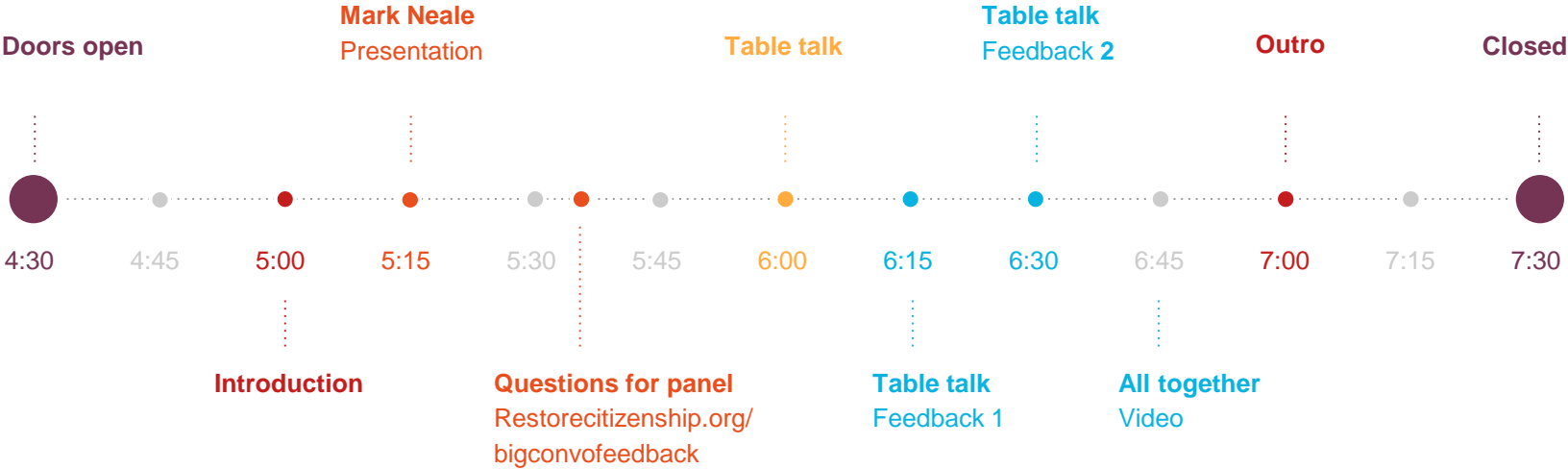
This group is to discuss a wide range of topics. From politics, sociology, culture, religion, philosophy and even what Beyonce ate for breakfast.

If you've been invited it's because someone thought you had something of value to share or hear. So we look forward to your input.

You can speak from your heart or your head. Be respectful and **be free.**



Order of the day



Speaker



Mark Neale

Educational consultant

Mark is a Christian independent educational consultant. Mark has run two schools here in the UK and is a leadership coach and mentor.

An ordained minister, Mark has pastored churches, been the principal of two independent schools and trained leaders in both the business and faith communities from around the world.

Today Mark is an Executive Director with The John Maxwell Team and is recognised as a gifted and powerful communicator who focuses on helping leaders and professionals in all sectors take their performance to the next level. He understands that through the promotion of the art and skill of transformational leadership, measurable change can be brought, not just to individuals and companies, but also to communities and even nations.

Panelists



Bridget Boulton

Manager of Education and training

As the manager of education and training, Bridget works with ACE schools across the country to ensure high standards and excellence in educational services are maintained.



Becky Penberthy- **Smith**

National Coordinator

Becky Penberthy-Smith educated her two daughters, Hannah & Abigail, through the ACE curriculum for over 15 years. Motivated to encourage other parents to homeschool, she became the National Coordinator for **TEACH's** 750 homeschool families in 2015.



Joy Sajuwa

Deputy Headteacher

Joy Sajuwa has over 11 years of teaching experience in the state education sector Joy is a Christian Deputy Headteacher for a local junior school in Havering.



[www.restorecitizenship.org/
bigconvofeedback](http://www.restorecitizenship.org/bigconvofeedback)

ASK A QUESTION?

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#restorecitizenship

Education in The UK

Where We Are & What Is Available



A group of people is gathered in a public square, holding a large white sign that reads "FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL!". The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The sign is held by several individuals, and the background shows a crowd of people and a building with a clock tower.

We Have Free Education For All

The law states our children have to be educated.

We have an army of committed professionals

There is no perfect system

- In 2012 1 in 5 adults were functionally illiterate in the UK
- This is one of the worst rates in the developed world
- The financial implications are immense, let alone the human cost

These Are People Not Statistics

- **70%** of prisoners are functionally illiterate
- **85%** of juvenile offenders are marginally illiterate
- **43%** with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty

What Do We Mean By Education?

- What is the purpose?
- Who decides what is best for our children?

Education

- The process of giving or receiving systematic instruction
- Education is a process, but what philosophy guides the process?

Purpose



“Education is the engine of our economy, it is the foundation of our culture, and it’s an essential preparation for adult life. Delivering on our commitment to social justice requires us to place these 3 objectives at the heart of our education system.”

Nick Gibb MP, Schools Minister

Policies

- All our educational policies are designed to meet the criteria laid out by the Schools Minister.
- But what if we have different criteria?

The Main Issue



- Class size and demographic
- The individual teachers ability to meet the needs of students through instruction and leadership

Reasons for a Viable Alternative

- Negatives such as bullying or health
- Belief that parents could do a better job
- Belief in a different culture, for example a Christian world view

The Neutrality Myth

Education can never be neutral

- “Children shouldn't be taught religion in schools”
- “Children should be allowed to make up their own minds about religion”
- Both the above remove neutrality

**Do Private
Schools and
Home Ed
Work?**

Yes

MYTH: Children in small private schools and Home Ed suffer in the following:

ACADEMICS	Almost 100% literacy, higher academics across the board, more success in further education
SOCIALISATION	More confidence, lower rates of depression, more capable communicators, solid support networks
CITIZENSHIP	Higher moral standards, more tolerant, respectful and caring towards people who are different

Conclusion

01

There are viable alternatives for those who are prepared to make the investment.

02

Children are not held back or disadvantaged.

03

There are commonly held beliefs that need to be challenged.



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PANEL QUESTIONS 

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Table talk

01

Statement

Review
information

02

Scenario

Discuss
ideas

03

Question

Propose
solutions

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**The educational system undermines parental
authority.
Agree or disagree?**

Parents protest pride event: <https://ind.pn/2msxdWF>

Home schooled children could face compulsory
registration, government consultation suggests:
<https://ind.pn/2L5JDCs>

The educational system undermines parental authority. Agree or disagree?

- The group agreed that the educational system could undermine parental authority.
- There is also a sense that peer pressure can also undermines the authority of parents.
- The state assumes through its policy absolute authority over the education of the child.
- For Christians the sense of powerlessness comes from whether they are active or passive parents.
- Conflict often arises when parents are unable to object to specific teaching such as:

Abstinence vs safe sex.

Gender dysphoria

Question? As a parent am I delegating authority or am I losing authority when sending my child to school.



Can Christian teachers exercise freedom of speech?

Independent article: <https://ind.pn/2LuD88g> | Premier article: <https://bit.ly/2uJyBYt>

Christian Concern article: <https://bit.ly/2LnBB7c>

Daily Mail, Monday, November 13, 2017 Page 13

Facing the sack, teacher who accidentally called transgender boy a girl

By Tom Kelly and Jim Norton

A TEACHER faces the sack after accidentally calling a transgender pupil 'girl' rather than 'boy'.

Joshua Sutcliffe, 21, said the student, who identifies as male, became 'irate' after he said 'well done girls' to him and a female friend for working hard.

The maths teacher, who does not believe in gender fluidity due to his Christian faith, said he had avoided using 'he' and 'him' when discussing the teenager and instead called him by his chosen male first name.

After the student's parents complained, Mr Sutcliffe was suspended from the state secondary school in Oxfordshire during a probe and faces a disciplinary hearing this



'It was surreal, Kafkaesque. I said I'd apologised ... it seemed

name and although I did not intentionally refer to the pupil as a 'girl', I do not believe it is unreasonable to call someone a girl if they were born a girl. This aggressive way in which transgender ideology is being imposed is undermining my freedom of belief and conscience, as well as the conscience of many people throughout our nation who believe that gender is assigned at birth.

I have a strong conviction that we are all made in God's image, male and female.

The row comes as drag queens are being asked to visit kindergarten nurseries so children as young as two can learn about transgender issues.

Can Christian teachers exercise freedom of speech?

- Yes! But you need to be wise when you speak.
- Be objective in the way you present your answers so you can maintain your professional boundaries whilst being accountable to your line managers.
- Must use wisdom when conveying your opinion.
- Be specific when sharing your opinions.
- Use objectivity and be aware of time and place.



Who should decide the criteria for judging whether faith schools are underperforming?

Guardian article:

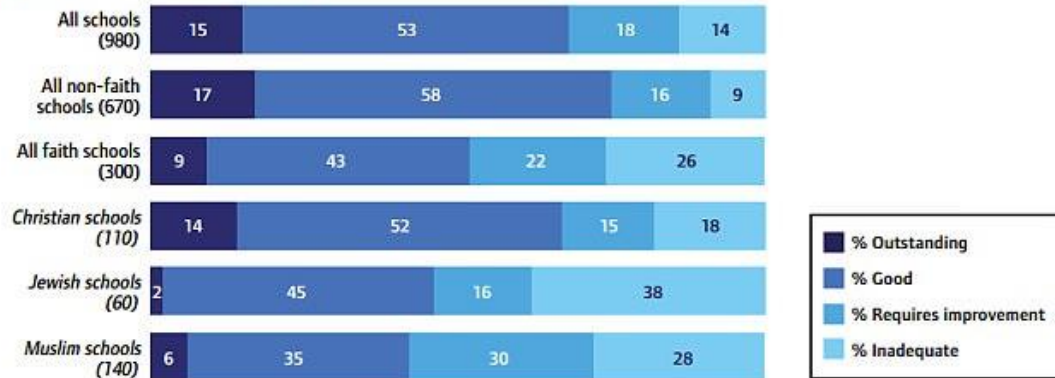
<https://bit.ly/2NoM8ww>

Christian Concern article:

<https://bit.ly/2NsX9wy>

Figure 10: Overall effectiveness of non-association independent schools at their most recent inspection, by faith, 31 August 2017

Number of schools in brackets (rounded)



1. Data on faith is taken from the DfE's Get Information About Schools database. It is based on a declaration by the school that it has either a religious character, a religious ethos, or both.
2. Christian schools include Church of England; Roman Catholic; Anglican; Evangelical; Seventh Day Adventist; Quaker; Protestant; Greek Orthodox and Christian.
3. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

Source: Ofsted
© Ofsted

Who should decide the criteria for judging whether faith schools are underperforming?

- Need to look at what the criteria was?
- Who was judging?
- Should there be a separation between academics and faith?
- It would be wholly unfair for Ofsted to judge a school solely by its faith.
- The current criteria lends itself to secular humanism.
- Secularism draws from control and totalitarianism.
- If a school is judged by faith what kind of criteria is being used?



Do faith schools cultivate segregation fundamentalism and extremism?

"Faith schools are not a positive feature of a diverse and integrated society, Rather, they are a barrier to integration and a barrier to the promotion of mutual understanding and respect between people from different religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds"

British Humanist Association (BHA) Education Campaigner Jay Harman

Independent article: <https://ind.pn/2uE43IH>

Do faith schools cultivate segregation fundamentalism and extremism?

- It would depend on their ethos and whether the ethos were rooted in Christian values.
- Supporting article research was flawed.
- The proportion of state and faith schools dramatically schew the findings and other factors have to be taken into account.
- Schools will not cultivate segregation if done properly.
- Extremism is a subjective term which can have positive and negative connotations.
- We should determine what the definitions are of the terms.



Isn't sunday school enough? Shouldn't Christian children witness for Christ in state schools?

Raising Christian kids in a public school: <https://bit.ly/2L2U5L3>

TEN REASONS Why You Should Send Your Child To A Christian School: <https://bit.ly/2zRzGDq>

Isn't Sunday school enough? Shouldn't Christian children witness for Christ in state schools?

- Sunday school only happens one day a week and there isn't enough time for wholistic teaching.
- The child is only learning bits a pieces of biblical accounts.
- Lacks the personal element required to work with children.
- Lack of knowledge and understanding relating to growing in knowledge and understanding of scripture.
- This directly impacts the ability of Christian children to witness.

Question: Are we disabling our children by not developing them in a theological understanding of the faith so that they can watch their doctrine and life?



Scenario 1

Pelumi and Elizabeth have just been blessed with a new baby boy. They are deeply committed Christians who take their parental responsibilities seriously.

They have a few years before he is ready for nursery. They have looked at homeschooling, state and faith schools.

They have come to you for advice.
What practical steps would you advise them to take?

Scenario 1: Advise for Pelumi and Elizabeth

- What outcome do you want?
- Pray and seek clarity on what the Lord says?
- Parent should get involved with the governing body of the school.
- Seek to tailor the child's education according to their needs.
- Get referrals, speak to other parents and students.
- Be realistic.

Note: Don't rely solely on the Ofsted report, look at the bigger picture.

Scenario 2

Peter is a deacon at a local church which has grown significantly in the past few years. The children's ministry has doubled and is full every Sunday.

Peter is concerned however with the attitudes and behaviours of the children. He is concerned that what is being preached to the parents isn't being passed down to the children.

He has approached his Pastor about starting a Christian school but struggled to get the buy in.

What would you advise Peter to do?

Scenario 2: Advise to help Peter start a Christian school.

- Peter should speak with the members of the church.
- Do a petition.
- Map out the principles of what behaviour they want to promote.
- Show the discord between desired behaviours and current realities on the ground.
- Research the cause of the behaviour.
- Discuss the vision of the church with elders and how the school might fit into it.
- Find out from parents why what is being taught isn't being passed down.
- Bridge the gap between the children and the pastor.
- Integrate and pilot a syllabus to help buy in.

Question 3: Christian parents send their children to state schools because they can't afford the fees and Christian schools are too expensive?

- You can buy the entire ACE curriculum for a year for the same price as a cup of coffee for one person for a year.
- Christian Schools appreciate both financial and practical support.
- Stepping out in faith also brings with it provision.
- There is a need for revelation to understand the importance of Christian education.

Note: The perception of the cost comes down to the cultural perspective of adults not used to free paying. Paying the price also includes recognizing the wider need of Christian education for the body of Christ as a whole.

Question 4: Christian schools are underfunded and don't meet all the needs of my child? Agree or disagree?

- Yes, Christian schools are under funded.
- Doctrinal differences impact our unity to the detriment of the whole.
- The Catholic church demonstrate a positive recognition of structures to support its members through education globally.

- Isn't it the responsibility of parents to meet the needs of their children.
- Schools can meet some or part. But not all.
- Parents can do a lot more.

Question 5: What are the advantages or disadvantages of home-schooling?

Advantages

- Large community of home schools across the UK.
- You get to choose who your friends are.
- You cannot regulate your child's friends in school.
- Child won't feel left out – bullying.
- You can choose your curriculum.
- Specialised learning.
- How much structure is really in school?
- Do you want the child to be wild or trained in character.
- Train up a child so they can thrive of routine.
- You can mix ages.

Dis-advantages

- Access for children to make friends.
- Structured vs unstructured home-schooling.
- 24/7
- Profession gets abandoned.
- Level of sacrifice.
- Financial challenges for parents when one is home schooling.

Stonewall in our schools

1. Does anything bother you about this video?
2. How would you respond if you child was in the assembly?
3. What's the cost of your child attending this school?



Useful links

RESTORE CITIZENSHIP.org



Christian
Concern



Department
for Education

- [School performance tables](#)
- [Get into teaching](#)
- [.GOV.UK Consultations on education](#)

Thank you

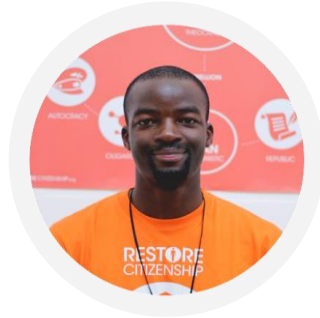


Frederick Tobun

Founder

Founder of Restore Citizenship, [Frederick](#) serves as a community elder of the Islington fellowship.

Frederick is passionate about reaching out with the [message of kingdom](#).



Ade Onabadejo

Co-founder

Co-founder, [Ade](#) oversees the ministries reach strategy through [Discover Citizenship](#) and is passionate about sharing the message of kingdom citizenship.



Pelumi Iggunobole

Co-founder

Co-founder, [Pelumi](#) oversees the ministries engagement strategy and is passionate about helping believers [explore citizenship](#).



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