**Timeline of the 50% cap**

**September 2007 –** The Labour Government [introduces a 50% cap](http://www.religionlaw.co.uk/FaithInTheSystem.pdf) on religious selection at new Academy schools that did not replace a pre-existing state-funded school.

**May 2010** **–** The Coalition Government [keeps the 50% cap in place](https://www.gov.uk/government/.../coalition_programme_for_government.pdf) as part of its Free Schools Programme, effectively meaning that almost no new state faith school can select more than half of their places on the basis of religion.

**November 2013** **–** The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales [announces](http://fairadmissions.org.uk/as-catholic-bishops-state-opposition-to-inclusive-admissions-fair-admissions-campaign-points-to-examples-of-inclusivity/) that it will boycott the free schools programme, refusing to open any new state schools under the 50% cap.

**April 2014** **–** Future Education Secretary Damian Hinds [sponsors a debate](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2014-04-30a.278.1) in the House of Commons calling for the cap to be removed.

**May 2015 –** Following the general election, the new Conservative Government keeps the cap in place, [stating that](http://schoolsweek.co.uk/government-urged-to-open-free-schools-in-segregated-communities/) it ‘helps tackle segregation and ensures young people will experience the diversity of beliefs that make up modern Britain.’

**September 2016** – Theresa May uses her first domestic policy speech as Prime Minister to [announce proposals](https://humanism.org.uk/2016/09/13/government-publishes-plans-to-allow-full-religious-discrimination-in-school-admissions/) to drop the 50% cap. The proposals are justified on the grounds that it hasn’t boosted integration and prevents new Catholic schools from opening.

**November 2016** – Humanists UK publishes [analysis of official figures](https://humanism.org.uk/2016/09/30/new-evidence-shows-government-proposal-to-allow-100-religious-selection-in-schools-will-lead-to-increased-segregation/) demonstrating that the 50% cap has significantly boosted integration in the majority of religious free schools, contrary to claims made by the Government.

**November 2016 –** Claims made by the Catholic Church that ‘canon law’ prevents it from opening schools under the 50% cap are [exposed as disingenuous and misleading](https://humanism.org.uk/2017/11/20/mps-misled-on-catholic-school-admissions-claims/) by Humanists UK, which [briefs MPs](https://humanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016-11-17-BHA-briefing-Religious-lobbying-on-50-per-cent-cap.pdf).

**December 2016** – The Department for Education is ordered by the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) to [amend the misleading figures](https://humanism.org.uk/2016/12/09/department-for-education-ordered-to-amend-misleading-faith-school-figures-by-uk-statistics-authority-following-bha-complaint/) on ethnic integration presented in its green paper, after Humanists UK lodged a complaint.

**May 2017 –** A poll commissioned by the Accord Coalition (of which Humanists UK is a member) reveals that [80% of the public](http://accordcoalition.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Religious-Schools-Survey.pdf) want the cap to remain in place. This includes 67% of Catholics and 71% of Christians as a whole.

**January 2018** **–** Education Secretary Justine Greening, who was understood to have privately opposed proposals to drop the cap, is [removed](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42597785) and replaced by Damian Hinds. Humanists UK reveals that he had previously received donations from the Catholic Church in return for placing an intern in his parliamentary office.

**March 2018** **–** Over 70 religious leaders, parliamentarians, education experts, and public figures, spanning from Humanists UK Chief Executive Andrew Copson through to former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, write an [open letter](https://humanism.org.uk/2018/03/06/religious-leaders-parliamentarians-education-experts-and-public-figures-sign-open-letter-calling-on-education-secretary-to-keep-faith-school-admissions-cap/) organised by Humanists UK calling on the Education Secretary to keep the cap in place.