

Salt and Light Papers provide important information and analysis to help Christians and Churches to engage with 21st century social issues

FA5

PEOPLE COMFORTABLE WITH CREATION TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

In spite of every effort by educationists to extinguish creation doctrine from the public domain, it continues to refuse to be snuffed out.

When a survey for the British Council, conducted by Ipsos Mori, questioned 11,768 adults from 10 countries on how the theory of evolution should be taught in school science lessons, the majority of the sample polled in Britain was comfortable with the idea of intelligent design and creationism being taught, alongside evolution, in schools.

Of the 973 Britons polled, about 54% agreed with the view: 'Evolutionary theories should be taught in science lessons in schools together with other possible perspectives, such as intelligent design and creationism.'

Across the 10 countries, 43% agreed with this statement. The figure in the US was 51%. It was found that Britons were almost three times more likely than Egyptians to want creationism and intelligent design to be included in the teaching of evolution.

The UK government has consistently and strongly asserted that creationism and intelligent design are unrecognised scientific theory, and as a result neither the primary nor secondary school science curriculums in Britain mention creationism or intelligent design.

However, the government has equally consistently advocated that young people should be able to discuss creationism as part of their religious education classes.

The year of the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth has been a good one for creationism, the subject of origins being given regular public attention. Apart from the major focus on Darwin, the topic has been kept to the fore by the Large Hadron Collider – now repaired again after 14 months

out of action – the discovery of galaxies and planets, and the insatiable impulse of evolutionists to bring creationism into the public arena in order to subject it to gratuitous attack.

Rod Badams

The above was published in The Bulletin [November 2009] under the heading The eclipse which refuses to happen.

Salt and Light Papers is a series of occasional papers on contemporary issues of social concern. It is published online by the Affinity Social Issues Team. Its purpose is to help Christians to think through questions of relevance to our place in the world around us. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Affinity Social Issues Team.

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