

## FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT 'THE CHILDREN'S WELLBEING AND SCHOOLS BILL'

Excerpts from Schools Bill Impact Assessments (note: the current schools bill is based on this document and in some ways more problematic)

### Page 76: Impact on key groups

290. The settings which will become regulated will in very many cases be institutions which currently provide a very narrow, predominantly religious education to conservative faith communities, especially some Charedi Jewish communities concentrated in Manchester, Gateshead and (particularly) North London/Essex.



## Impact Assessments

Schools Bill  
May 2022

291. The impact of this measure will significantly impact on these communities, those within the communities who operate and conduct these settings, and the children within them who attend these religious-education settings. The number of these settings is unknown since, by definition, they operate without our oversight.

However, as a guide, in 2015 the Interlink Foundation, an Orthodox Jewish charity, using numbers from the 2011 census estimated the number of strictly Orthodox Jews to be between 30,900 and 43,500 depending on definition. Given the relatively high birth-rate of this community, we have a working estimate that the current Orthodox Jewish population of England is around 50,000.

292. Set against this, not all of these individuals will make use of institutions that fall outside the regulatory system to educate their children. There are some independent educational institutions of a Charedi Jewish religious character already registered with the Secretary of State and some children of a Charedi background may attend non-religious schools. We have no reliable estimate of the number of people (adults and children) impacted by this change. However, the total number should be small, and definitely fewer than 50,000, and the number of settings impacted should be commensurate with the provision of education to this population.

293. There are two possible positive outcomes from these changes. Those running the affected institutions can either (a) register, meeting all relevant standards with regards to, among other things, safeguarding and education, or (b) reduce the hours that they operate, or otherwise change their educational provision so that they need not register. Scenario (a) would be a positive outcome for the children attending these settings since for example, the quality of the education they receive is likely to be better and greater assurance can be given as to their welfare, for instance, regarding the safety of the buildings in which they learn. Scenario (b) may also be a positive outcome if it means that the children attend a registered institution during normal school hours and attend these settings for 'supplementary' education only.

### Page 77: Wider Impacts and Transfers

296. Any wider impacts are likely to be most experienced by independent schools and

maintained schools in the Manchester, Gateshead, and Hackney areas if the impacted settings in these areas respond to this measure by ceasing to provide “fulltime” education and so are not required to register. In this scenario, the children who previously attended the institution may need to attend elsewhere for their education. This may create pressure for places at schools nearby, especially registered independent schools which educate in line with Charedi Jewish teaching.

297. However, this scenario (children attending registered settings and only using Yeshivas for supplementary education) appears unlikely given the nature of the Charedi Jewish communities. A more likely outcome is that the children who currently attend Yeshivas will be classified as electively home educated, attending the Yeshivas on evenings and weekends.

298. Regardless, the numbers involved in such a scenario are expected to be small albeit concentrated in specific geographic areas.

## **Equalities impact assessment**

### **Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill March 2025 pg 52**



## **Equalities impact assessment**

**Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill**

**March 2025**

209. We expect objection to this measure on the basis it runs counter to inviolate community traditions which value the education offered by yeshivas. However, we believe this measure remains justifiable for two reasons. First, the right of children to a safe education that suitably equips them for adult life should be protected and promoted by legislation. Second, our measures do not prevent children receiving a religious education but mean

that arrangements for a religious education should not prevent children receiving a suitable “secular” education also. The department has not seen evidence which suggests this measure is inherently incompatible with traditional practices, or that it is impossible for children to receive an intensive religious education in addition to a “secular” education in a registered setting and know of no other religious communities which operate this model.

210. We also expect objection on the basis that educational settings for children of Haredi Jewish faith may not be able to meet all of the regulatory standards (should they remain as they currently stand and if these were the standards to be met as a condition of registration) and that the department establishing this as the bar for registration is itself discriminatory since, for example, the requirements of the current standards with regards to teaching respect by reference to protected characteristics is incompatible with Hasidic Jewish faith. This means that even if the community wished to register yeshivas or any other new educational institution with the Secretary of State it would be very unlikely that it could successfully register (since likely compliance with the standards is needed to register). However, we are aware of other religious groups, where their beliefs could preclude against teaching about protected characteristics, which have satisfied the relevant requirements of the standards. We also believe that this policy will bring wider societal benefits by encouraging more children to receive an education which promotes the development of well-rounded individuals.

211. We think it is important and justifiable to proceed, both to promote the principle that full-time educational institutions should be subject to regulation so that, among other things, the Secretary of State can intervene in cases of serious wellbeing risk to children, and to send a signal that we do not consider a full-time education provided by a setting offering a very narrow curriculum to be “suitable” and appropriate for children’s needs. We anticipate that

**NEW! One can hear factual information on this hotline 0330 909 0265 (Under 20 mins)**

this signal will play a role in bringing about behavioural change. In the immediate term, some settings which want to continue operating full time will make the necessary changes to their curriculum and register with the Secretary of State. This will immediately bring children who otherwise would not have been in a regulated setting, into a setting subject to the regulatory regime and regular inspection. A longer-term impact of the signal the policy sends will be, we anticipate, to encourage future generations to develop sensitive approaches to overcome the obstacles which currently inhibit registration, bringing positive benefits to the children attending these settings, some of whom may share a relevant protected characteristic.

### **Daas Torah Speaks – A Matter of Grave Urgency**

With profound concern and a deep sense of responsibility, we alert the *tzibbur* that, G-d forbid, the UK Government is poised to enact legislation on May 1st that presents an unprecedented and far-reaching threat to our sacred duty of educating our children *al taharas hakodesh*, in full accordance with Torah values and the *mesorah* of *Klal Yisroel*.

This is not merely a policy shift — it is a direct challenge to the very foundation of our *kehillos* and the future of Torah *chinuch* in this country. The voices of *Daas Torah* have spoken with clarity and urgency. We must not stand idly by.

### **A Clarion Call from one of the Foremost Torah Leaders in the UK**

**Harav Avrohom Gurwicz shlit" a**, Rosh Yeshivas Gateshead, is internationally esteemed as a preeminent senior Torah sage in the United Kingdom. His decades of leadership, profound Torah knowledge, and moral clarity have earned him unparalleled respect across the global Torah world. When a figure of such towering spiritual stature speaks, it is not merely an opinion — it is a voice of *daas Torah* that demands our deepest attention.

With unwavering clarity, **the Rosh Yeshiva has issued a sobering warning:**

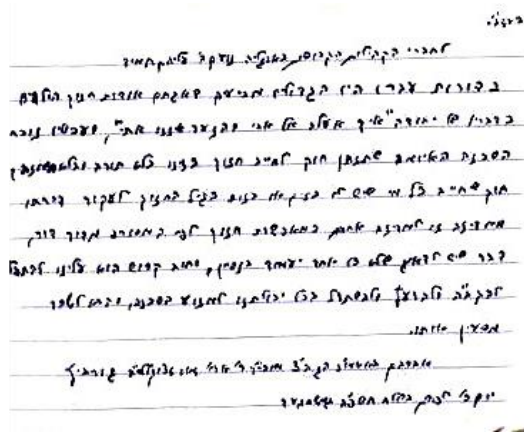
*Should this proposed legislation be passed, the integrity of Torah chinuch in the UK would be compromised to such a degree that **we may be forced to educate our children outside the country.***

This is a stark reality outlined by one of the greatest Torah minds of our generation — a man known for his measured words and lifelong devotion to the preservation of authentic Yiddishkeit.

In his stirring letter, the Rosh Yeshiva further declared:

***"It is a sacred obligation upon us to beseech Hashem in heartfelt tefillah, to seek wise counsel, and to mobilise every possible effort to prevent this looming danger."***

Let no one remain unmoved. This is a moment that demands resolve, unity, and immediate action. The hour is late — but with G-d's help and the strength of our collective voice, we can still stand firm in defence of Torah *chinuch*.



## THIS IS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The schools bill gives the government unlimited control of your children's education:

- They will decide how to educate your children - **not you!**
- The government will force you to teach your children the educational programs.
- If you do not comply you could face legal penalties.
- They will ignore your values, your faith in Hashem and your traditions!

### This is the greatest threat to parental rights in British history

It does not take a *talmid chochom* to realise that the government is going to come down full force on the registered schools to teach all what they want to teach children R'l once they have closed the homeschool options! They have already imposed teaching all their agendas on all the schools in Wales as of 22nd December 2022... A consultation carried out showed that this was done against the wishes of 90% of the parents (Child Public Protection Wales)!!!

Those who examined the bill properly have concluded This bill will not only curb parents' home-education rights... it will prevent any bochur not yet 16 years old by the end of the summer holidays from attending a yeshiva. It also jeopardizes all yeshiva education for anyone who is not yet 18 years old as it brings yeshivas under the same legislation as schools (please listen to the hotline).