

## Contacts

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:**

**FACEBOOK** - SECULAR EDUCATION NETWORK (NZ)  
**WEBSITE** - [WWW.RELIGIONINSCHOOLS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.RELIGIONINSCHOOLS.CO.NZ)  
**EMAIL** - [SEN@CHRISTCHURCH.ORG.NZ](mailto:SEN@CHRISTCHURCH.ORG.NZ)

**SUPPORT OUR CAUSE BY DONATING AT:**  
[HTTPS://GIVEALITTLE.CO.NZ/CAUSE/TANYAJACOB-DAVIDHINES](https://givelittle.co.nz/cause/tanyaajacob-davidhines)



## What SEN does

The Secular Education Network (SEN) exists to help families adversely effected by religious instruction. We also lobby for the repeal of the legal loophole that allows religious instruction and discrimination in our schools.

It is a community and a rallying point. A place where you can get support and resources to advocate for your child with your school.

We attempt to counter misinformation and address the lack of information around religious instruction. SEN member David Hines has conducted the only surveys of the nation's schools. The Ministry of Education keeps no information on RI but we now know how many schools run it, what syllabuses they use, and much more.

We have gone to mediation at the Human Rights Commission with the Ministry of Education to ask for improvements on behalf of all parents. Unfortunately, much hoped for guidelines were not forthcoming.

A court case is now pending at the Human Rights Review Tribunal brought by David Hines and Tanya Jacob, with 26 witnesses from around the country, against the Attorney General. The aim is for a declaration that religious instruction law is inconsistent with Human Rights law. Parliament would then have to consider repeal.



# What do you know about your school's Religious Instruction?

*Most people expect that religious instruction is run by teachers; is about a variety of religions; and emphasises values. Unfortunately, this is not the case.*

*Children sit in their normal school environment, during normal school hours, and are taught to believe the dogma of one religion as though it is fact like any they might learn in that environment. This is done by evangelical volunteers who have no interest in presenting a balanced approach.*

*This goes against the curriculum value of 'diversity', and may directly contradict curriculum learning areas. Despite this children are often included by default and parents are often told that it complements the curriculum. Also of concern is the mistreatment and bullying of those who opt out.*

