

## Comparative Table: Public Schools

List of abbreviations		Notes
Ahmadis	Ah	
Alawites	Al	
Baha'is	B	
Catholics	Ca	
Copts	Co	
Jehovah's Witnesses	JW	
Jews	J	
Muslims	M	This category includes both Sunni and Shia Muslims.
Orthodox Christians	OC	
Protestants	P	
Religious education	RE	
Religious minority	RM	
Religious organization	RO	
Shia Muslims	ShM	
Syriac Christians	SC	This category includes both Catholics and Orthodox.
Western Thrace	WT	

Questions	Denmark	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Egypt	Lebanon
1. In your country, is religion taught in public schools?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. In your country, what is the existing system of teaching religion in public schools?	Teaching about religions as a specif school subject (1)	Teaching of religion as a specific school subject	Teaching of religion as a specific school subject	Teaching of religion as a specific school subject	Teaching of religion as a specific school subject (2)	Teaching of religion as a specific school subject

(1) Christianity is taught from the 1st grade, then other religions. From the 10th-12th grade, history of religions is taught.

(2) RE is a compulsory subject; however, it is a “pass” or “fail” subject (i.e., it is not calculated as part of a student’s final grade). Some other subjects also include religious notions, such as the Arabic language class, where some Islamic religious texts and Hadiths of the Prophet are taught.

Questions	Denmark	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Egypt	Lebanon
3. Can the religion of the following RMs be taught in public schools?	All RM religions (Ca, JW, J, M, OC) can be taught in the context of teaching about religion.	Ca: no JW: no J: no M: no (with some exceptions) P: no (3)	JW: no J: yes M: no OC: yes P: yes (4)	Yes, all RM religions (JW, J, M, OC, P)	Ah: no B: no Co: yes ShM: no (5)	Ah: no Al: yes JW: no SC: yes (5)
3.1. Are they taught within or outside the school timetable?	Within	N/A	Within	Within	Within	Within
3.2. Are they taught for how many hours per week?	It depends on the grade.	N/A	No definite schedule (6)	1 hour per week	2 hours per week (7)	1-2 hours per week

(3) Only the Orthodox religion is taught in all public schools (the Orthodox Church is the majority RO). In primary schools, Law no. 4386/2016 makes it possible to hire teachers of Catholic and Jewish religion on a yearly basis, but it is very seldom applied, with the exception of the Cyclades, where there is a significant Catholic population. Islam is taught in WT - in minority schools for Greek nationals of Muslim religion (characterized by a bilingual Greek-Turkish education system), as well as in public schools. In the latter, it can be taught as an alternative to Orthodox tuition when a sufficient number of Muslim students request exemption from it (Art. 53 of Law no. 4115/2013).

(4) Jews have to right to address any requests coming from students, their families or school authorities concerning the study of Judaism. Christian Orthodox and Protestants have to right to address any requests coming from students, their families or school authorities concerning the study of the religious factor and its implications.

(5) Only the religion of recognized RMs can be taught in public schools.

(6) Classes are given when requested by students, teachers or other stakeholders.

(7) The Ministry of Education allocates two lessons per week for RE, each lesson lasting for about 45 minutes.

Questions	Denmark	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Egypt	Lebanon
3.3. Who has the right to choose the textbooks: the state/school or RM authorities?	State/school	N/A (8)	RM authorities	RM authorities	State/school	School in cooperation with RM authorities (9)
3.4. Who has the right to define the syllabus content?	State/school	N/A	RM authorities	RM authorities	State in cooperation with experts of different religions (10)	School in cooperation with RM authorities (11)

(8) In WT, under the 1951 bilateral agreement signed with Turkey, Greek textbooks used for the Greek-language part of the curriculum were to be produced by the Greek state (like in all public schools), and the Turkish textbooks were to be imported from Turkey. Textbooks were to be inspected by the respective Ministries, which could censor material considered ideologically charged, and suggest changes. In 2000, new books for the Turkish-language part of the curriculum were imported from Turkey and approved by the Greek Ministry of Education.

(9) The local administration of the school in cooperation with the teachers (affiliated to their respective RM) who provide RE.

(10) The Ministry of Education selects a number of Christian experts and teachers to develop Christian RE curricula, and similarly it selects Muslim experts and teachers from the dominant Sunni denomination to develop Islamic RE curricula, under the supervision of the Curriculum Development Department.

(11) The local school authorities in cooperation with the teachers who impart RE.

Questions	Denmark	Greece	Italy	Portugal	Egypt	Lebanon
4. Are RE teachers chosen by the state/school or RM authorities?	State/school	N/A	RM authorities	RM authorities	State/school (12)	School in cooperation with RM authorities
4.1. If the answer to question 4 is state/school, are RMs involved in this choice?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Yes (13)

(12) In state-owned public schools, the government selects and appoints teachers in all subjects. As for RE, there is no staff or specific teachers who teach only RE, be it Islam or Christianity. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and the governorates' educational departments assign Islamic RE classes to Arabic language teachers. As for Christian RE, the educational administration chooses some Christian teachers who teach other subjects, such as science and social studies, to teach Christian RE in addition to their other basic school subjects. Thus, in public schools the religious authority has no role in selecting RE teachers.

(13) The religious authority chooses who of its clergymen is allowed to teach and who cannot. An agreement is made between the RM and the school concerning those eligible to teach. The school can only choose among those who are eligible to teach.