

Comparative Table: Public and Private Faith-Based Schools

List of abbreviations		Notes
Alsace and Moselle	AM	
Catholics	C	
European Court of Human Rights	ECtHR	
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	

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
1. In your country, is religion taught in public schools?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. In your country, what is the existing system of teaching religion in public schools?	Teaching of religion	Teaching of religion (1)	Teaching of religion; teaching about religion (2)	Teaching of religion	Teaching of religion (1)

(1) The law does not expressly provide for any denominational teaching, but RE curriculum is predominantly based on the majority RO (Orthodox Christianity in the Republic of Cyprus, and Islam in Türkiye).

(2) Teaching of religion as a specific school subject in AM (where the system of "cultes reconnus" is still in force); teaching about religion as a transversal subject in the rest of France (where the 1905 Law of Separation of Churches and State is in force).

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
3. Can the religion of the following RMs be taught in public schools?	JW: no J: yes M: yes OC: yes P: yes (3)	C: yes JW: no J: no M: yes P: no (4)	JW: no J: yes (in AM) M: no OC: no P: yes (in AM) (5)	C: no P: no (6)	C: yes P: yes (4)
3.1. Are they taught within or outside the school timetable?	Within	Within	Within (in AM)	N/A	Within
3.2. Are they taught for how many hours per week?	Two	Two in primary schools; one and a half in secondary schools	One (in AM)	N/A	Two

(3) Only the religion of the RMs having agreements with the State can be taught in public schools.

(4) There is just one RE teaching, and they can be taught in the context of that course.

(5) Only the religion of the RMs being "cultes reconnus" can be taught in public schools (and only in AM).

(6) Only the religion of the majority RO (Islam) is taught in public schools.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
3.3. Who has the right to choose the textbooks: the state/school or RM authorities?	RM authorities (7)	State/school	State/school and RM authorities jointly (in AM)	N/A	State/school
3.4. Who has the right to define the syllabus content?	RM authorities	State/school	State/school and RM authorities jointly (in AM)	N/A	State/school

(7) However, all textbooks have to be registered by the Ministry of Education and their content must not contradict public order and State values.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
4. Are RE teachers paid by the state/school or RM authorities?	State/school	State/school	State/school (in AM)	N/A	State/school
4.1. Are RE teachers of the following RMs paid by the state/school?	Yes, RE teachers of all RMs concerned (J, M, OC and P)	There is just one teacher covering both the majority RO and RMs (C and M).	Yes, RE teachers of all RMs concerned (J and P)	N/A	There is just one teacher covering both the majority RO and RMs (C and P).

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
5. Do students have the right to opt out from the teaching of/about religion?	Yes (8)	Yes (9)	Yes (in AM)	No	Yes (10)
5.1. If students opt out from the teaching of/about religion, are they obliged to attend another course?	No in primary schools; yes in secondary schools (e.g., ethics)	No	No (in AM)	N/A	No

(8) Students choose to attend or not RE at the beginning of each school year. If they choose so, they are obliged to attend RE for the entire school year.

(9) Students belonging to the OC religion (that is, the majority RO) do not have this right. However, on 15 September 2016, the Ministry of Education sent directions to the schools concerning the possibility for OC parents to request exemptions for their children.

(10) However, the exemption system has been regarded by the ECtHR as violating Art. 2 P-1 (right to education) in *Hasan and Eylem Zengin v. Turkey*, No. 1448/04, 9 October 2007, and *Mansur Yalçın and Others v. Turkey*, No. 21163/11, 16 September 2014. Following the decision of the Constitutional Court of 7 April 2022, the right to opt out has been extended to students not belonging to an RM.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
5.2. Do students who are members of the following RMs have the right to opt out from the teaching of religion?	JW: N/A J: yes M: yes OC: yes P: yes	C: yes JW: yes J: yes M: yes P: yes	JW: N/A J: yes (in AM) M: N/A OC: N/A P: yes (in AM)	C: no P: no	C: yes P: yes

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
6. Can teachers wear religious symbols when giving classes?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (11)	Yes
6.1. Can teachers who are members of the following RMs wear the symbols of their religion?	JW: yes J: yes M: yes OC: yes P: yes	C: yes JW: yes J: yes M: yes P: yes	N/A	C: no P: no	C: yes P: yes

(11) Only symbols of the majority RO (Islam).

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
7. Can students wear religious symbols at school?	Yes	Yes	No (12)	Yes (13)	Yes (14)
7.1. Can students who are members of the following RMs wear the symbols of their religion at school?	Yes, all RM students (JW, J, M, OC and P)	Yes, all RM students (C, JW, J, M and P)	No, no RM students (JW, J, M, OC and P) (12)	C: no P: no	C: yes P: yes

(12) No, unless they are non-"conspicuous" religious symbols. In practice, this prohibition has been applied in particular to Muslim and Sikh students. The prohibition does not apply to universities.

(13) Only symbols of the majority RO (Islam).

(14) There is a prohibition applying only to students belonging to the majority RO (Islam). In pre- and primary schools, heads must be uncovered.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
8. Do public schools officially display religious symbols?	No (15)	No (16)	No	No	No
8.1. Can symbols of the following RMs be officially displayed in schools?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(15) This matter is not specifically regulated by law. The crucifix is sometimes displayed.

(16) The display of religious symbols is not prescribed by law, but it is allowed. OC religious symbols are displayed.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
9. Can teachers refrain from giving classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion?	Yes	No	Yes (17)	Yes (18)	No (19)
9.1. Can teachers who are members of the following RMs refrain from giving classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion?	JW: no J: yes M: yes OC: yes P: yes (20)	C: N/A JW: N/A J: N/A M: N/A P: N/A	Yes, all RM teachers (JW, J, M, OC and P) (17)	C: no P: no	C: no P: no (19)

(17) Yes, if this is compatible with the proper functioning of the public education service.

(18) Only teachers belonging to the majority RO (Islam). Muslim festivities are public holidays.

(19) No, unless religious festivities are officially recognized by the State and are part of the national festivities of the civil calendar. In practice, this right is granted to Armenian Gregorians and Jews.

(20) Only teachers belonging to an RM having an agreement with the State.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
10. Can students refrain from attending classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion?	Yes	No	Yes (21)	Yes (22)	No (23)
10.1. Can students who are members of the following RMs refrain from attending classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion?	JW: no J: yes M: yes OC: yes P: yes (24)	C: N/A JW: N/A J: N/A M: N/A P: N/A	Yes, all RM students (JW, J, M, OC and P) (21)	C: no P: no	C: no P: no (23)

(21) Yes, if this is compatible with their education-related tasks as stated by the Council of State on 14 April 1995. There are no dedicated legal provisions.

(22) Only students belonging to the majority RO (Islam). Muslim festivities are public holidays.

(23) No, unless religious festivities are officially recognized by the State and are part of the national festivities of the civil calendar. In practice, this right is granted to Armenian Gregorians and Jews.

(24) Only students belonging to an RM having an agreement with the State.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
11. Do students have the right to obtain food that is not forbidden by their religion's dietary rules?	No (there is no specific right, just a possibility) (25)	No (there is no specific right, just a possibility) (26)	No (there is no specific right, just a possibility) (26)	No (there is no specific right, just a possibility) (26)	No (there is no specific right, just a possibility) (26)
11.1. Do students who are members of the following RMs have the right to obtain food that is not forbidden by their religion's dietary rules?	N/A	N/A	N/A	C: no P: no	C: no P: no

(25) At the beginning of the school year, parents usually fill in a questionnaire to indicate any health- or religion-related dietary needs their children have. These needs can be satisfied depending on available options. For example, food might not be certified as halal, but Muslim children are not given pork.

(26) School canteens may provide alternative menus, or students may be allowed to eat food brought from home.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
12. Can RMs open faith-based private schools?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No (27)
12.1. If the answer to question 12 is yes, can the following RMs open faith-based private schools?	Yes, all RMs (JW, J, M, OC and P)	Yes, all RMs (C, JW, J, M and P)	Yes, all RMs (JW, J, M, OC and P) (28)	N/A	N/A

(27) RMs may open private schools, but not faith-based ones. Under the official interpretation of the Treaty of Lausanne, there is the possibility for Christian Orthodox, Armenian Gregorian and Jewish minorities to open and run minority schools, attended by Turkish citizens belonging to their respective religion.

(28) No faith-based schools have been open so far by JW.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
13. Can faith-based private schools of RMs give their students diplomas that are recognized by the State?	Yes (29)	Yes (30)	No (31)	N/A	N/A

(29) This is regulated by the agreements between the State and ROs.

(30) Yes, if they were approved, adhered to the legislation concerned and did not discriminate amongst students.

(31) The State has the monopoly of school diplomas: private schools can issue schooling certificates which are not diplomas. They do however prepare their students for official examinations in view of diplomas issued by the State.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
<p>14. Are teachers chosen by A) the state, B) the RM/school without any state intervention (provided that the rules on the academic qualifications of teachers are met), C) through a procedure that involves both the state and the RM/school?</p>	C)	C)	C)	N/A	N/A

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
15. Can teachers be dismissed if they do not conform their behavior to the principles of the faith-based private school?	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
16. Are faith-based private schools free to reject the admission of students (for example on the ground of the different religion they profess)?	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	N/A

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
17. Are faith-based private schools free to choose the syllabus and the textbooks?	Yes	Only some types of schools (32)	Only some types of schools (33)	N/A	N/A

(32) "According to the Private Schools Law 2019, these institutions can mainly be categorized into three types according to the curriculum offered, schools of the same type (as state schools), schools of a similar type (to state schools), and schools of a different type (to state schools and the aforementioned categories). Schools of the same type strictly follow the national curriculum and take part in national examinations, using Greek as their language of instruction. Schools of a similar type teach 2/3 of the national curriculum subjects (along with other subjects) and use either Greek or English as their language of instruction, while schools of a different type follow a different curriculum and examination system and commonly use a language other than Greek as their medium of instruction" (<https://education-profiles.org/europe-and-northern-america/cyprus/~non-state-actors-in-education>).

(33) A distinction must be made between schools with a contract with the State and those without it. The latter are free to adapt the syllabus only in part.

Questions	Croatia	Cyprus	France	Algeria	Türkiye
18. Do the state or public institutions financially support faith-based private schools of the following RMs?	JW: no J: yes M: yes OC: yes P: yes	Only some types of schools (34)	Only some types of schools (35)	N/A	N/A

(34) "In certain cases, private schools receive subsidies from the government, while the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth (MoECSY) specifically subsidizes the operation of private schools that cater to religious and ethnic minority groups (Turkish Cypriots, Armenian Orthodox, Maronite Catholics, and Latins – Roman Catholics) that are recognized in the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus 1960. Several minority communities in Cyprus have established private schools that cater to their needs and teach in English, Arabic, Russian, or French (also referred to as foreign language schools). In the case of foreign language schools, funding is provided by overseas governments or organizations" (<https://education-profiles.org/europe-and-northern-america/cyprus/~non-state-actors-in-education>).

(35) Only schools with a contract with the State can be financially supported.