

Catholic Schools – Diverse or Divisive?

[Joe Ronan] In 2017 the 2,222 Catholic schools in England and Wales educated 854,827 students at all ages from primary to sixth form. One in ten schools in England and Wales are Catholic schools. The Catholic presence in education is not new, or even recent. It can be traced back to the monastic and cathedral schools in the late sixth century onwards which provided the first schools and universities in England. The Reformation saw Catholic education forced underground or abroad, but in around 1850 schools were re-established and became an important part of the education of the poor and immigrant communities of the new industrial age.



Statistics on Catholic Education are taken from the Catholic Education Service Digest of 2017 Census Data for Schools and Colleges in England, and the similar document for Wales.

<http://catholiceducation.org.uk/images/CensusDigestEngland2017.pdf>

<http://catholiceducation.org.uk/images/CensusDigestWales2017EnglishText.pdf>

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