

30 March 2006

You may be aware of the British Humanist Association and our long-standing campaign against the teaching of creationism as a theory on a par with scientific theories such as evolution. You can read about the campaign, which began after the revelations coming out of some city academies in 2002 at <http://tinyurl.com/efcqd>

Now that the some of the furore about your new Gateway Science specification has died down a little, I wanted to contact you to express our concern that the provisions in the specification may allow the teaching of contemporary creationism within science lessons.

Your news release of 13 March was greatly reassuring as an indication of how OCR see the specification, but we are very aware of how the notion of a controversy is used as a Trojan horse by some for the introduction of religious beliefs into school science.

In light of this, I hope that you will take action within the specification to make it clear that only creationist explanations of the origin of species that were prior to Darwin or contemporary to him are considered legitimate to be taught in this context, as part of the history of science.

I look forward to receiving your reply,

Andrew Copson  
Education Officer,  
British Humanist Association

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