

# The History of of Catholic Education in England and Wales



600AD



The Catholic Church was the first provider of schools and universities in England. The earliest schools were cathedral and monastic schools established from the late sixth century onwards.

1100AD

Foundation of Universities at Oxford and then later Cambridge



## The English Reformation

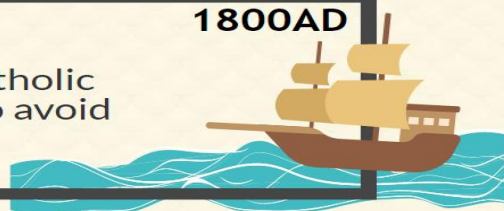
1534AD



At the Reformation in the 16th century, the monasteries were suppressed, and the existing schools re-founded. The Catholic Church's role as a provider of public education serving England and Wales was forced to go underground or abroad.

1800AD

By the early 1800s most of the English Catholic schools which had been based in France to avoid persecution have returned to England.



1847AD



The Bishops of England and Wales (at the time still vicars-apostolic) formed the Catholic Poor School Committee, the forerunner to the modern Catholic Education Service.

1850AD

## The Restoration of the Hierarchy

The Catholic hierarchy was restored in England and Wales in 1850. Because the Church viewed education as so important they decided that the education of the poor was to be their first priority, often building schools before churches.



1944AD

1944 marked the passing of the Education Act 1944 where most Catholic schools became 'voluntary aided' schools. This meant they remained part of the state system whilst retaining their distinctively Catholic ethos through various legal protections which continue to apply to Catholic schools to this day.



2005AD

The first Catholic school was granted academy status.

2012AD

By 2012 all former Catholic teacher training colleges had been granted university status

