

Polish migrants creating need for new faith schools

By Philip Johnston
Home Affairs Editor

MORE Roman Catholic schools will be needed to cope with the increase in the number of Polish children settling in the country, John Reid said yesterday.

The Home Secretary highlighted growing pressure on faith school places as he launched a Government forum to consider the wider social impact of large-scale immigration.

For the first time, local government chiefs, health-care executives and other public service providers will have a say over how many should arrive. But they have no control over the settlers from eastern Europe, who can come in as EU citizens.

So far, more than 650,000 have registered to work, though many more have arrived as self-employed job seekers.

The Home Office massively under-estimated the migration from the EU accession countries that joined in 2004.

It also assumed that most who came to work would be young men and women staying for only a few months.

But there are indications that many eastern Europeans, especially the Poles who make

up the bulk of new arrivals, are staying on.

A recent study from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggested that about 160,000 eastern Europeans will settle for good – the equivalent of the population of Swindon. Many are drawn by the prospect of good schools.

Mr Reid said: "There is a demand for Catholic school places as a result of the likelihood of Polish children in the country growing and wanting a Catholic education. We have to be sure we take this into account."

By the end of March this year, about 25,000 children under 17 had arrived with registered workers – most of them from Poland, where 95 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic. But the scheme does not record whether children are brought to Britain once their parents have been settled here for a few months and secured jobs.

Nor does it record the children of the self-employed, who do not have to register, or those of parents who have simply chosen not to.

The number arriving with children has doubled in the past year and some experts believe there could be 50,000 eastern European children in the country. There are about

1,700 Catholic primary schools and 350 secondaries in England and Wales.

There are also more than 50 Polish Saturday schools offering language and cultural lessons to the children of immigrants.

Earlier this year, Barbara Tuge-Erecinska, the Polish ambassador, said there are now so many Polish children in British schools that they should teach Polish history and culture.

Many schools are worried about coping with the sudden influx and are trying to recruit Polish teachers to help. Bradford city council is to build four primary schools to cope with the arrival of more than 600 children from Eastern Europe.

The council in Slough, Berks, says it has almost 900 school pupils from non English-speaking backgrounds.

Catholic schools in England and Wales have never filled all their places and one in five secondary pupils is a non-Catholic. The arrival of large numbers of Catholics from eastern Europe is likely to reduce this proportion.

Polish workers have also had a revitalising effect on Catholic churches, with some offering Mass said partially in Polish.



Girl, 2, is youngest to join Mensa

A two-year-old has become the youngest girl ever to join Mensa. Georgina Brown, of Aldershot, Hants, pictured with her mother Lucy, has an IQ of 152. She can count to 10 and recognises colours and shapes

First-borns 'likely to have highest IQs'

By Roger Highfield
Science Editor

THE child raised as the eldest in a family tends to have the highest IQ, according to a study published last night.

The report appears to end years of academic disagreements over how birth order influences personality, intelligence and achievement.

Until now, the idea that sibling rank shapes personality and brain power were dogged by contradictory findings but an analysis of Norwegian 18- and 19-year-olds settles the issue in favour of children who are raised as the eldest, says the journal *Science*.

Prof Petter Kristensen, at the National Institute of Occupational Health in Oslo, and Tor Bjerkedal, at the Norwegian Armed Forces Medical Service, found the link by studying the birth order, IQ and family situations of more than 250,000 Norwegian conscripts.

The effect does not link IQ and biological birth order because the team found that if a child has lost one or two older brothers or sisters, and they are reared as the eldest, their IQ is still higher by an average of two or three points than their two younger siblings.

Although this IQ difference is small, it is significant. For example, if there was a more prestigious college for students with IQs above the mean, and a less desirable institution for all other students, one commentator estimated that an eldest child

would be about 13 per cent more likely than a second-born to be admitted to the better institution.

"We found that it is the son's social position and not his biological position that counts, and the only explanations plausible to me are factors related to parental attention and stimulation," Prof Kristensen said.

The effect is the same for boys as girls, he added. "In our data set, it does not matter whether the young man being tested has sisters or brother, it is the number of elder siblings that count."

One reason for the higher IQ in first-born could be due to the tutoring that the elder children usually perform, according to Frank Sulloway, of the Institute of Personality and Social Research, University of California.

He has spent two decades studying how upbringing influences personality and intelligence.

"In addition, the tendency for first-borns to occupy the family niche of a surrogate parent, and to take on the role of the conscientious, self-disciplined and mature sibling may also explain why first-borns have higher IQs than their younger siblings," Prof Sulloway said.

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HAVE YOUR SAY
Are older siblings clever in your family?
telegraph.co.uk/news

Readers pay tribute to themselves as online obituaries take on life of their own

DAILY TELEGRAPH readers have helped breathe new life into the age-old newspaper tradition of the obituary.

The Telegraph has just launched its own auto-obituary service and we have been encouraging readers to write their own memorials on our blogging website My Telegraph.

The results have turned out to be both poignant and amusing.

Here are extracts from some of the best:

Goth Queen, who has died aged 107, after being found submerged under a pile of her manuscripts, was once a *Daily Telegraph* blogger. She spent her last years watching Alan Rickman films, revising her 26 novels and writing scandalous memoirs. She never found a publisher.

The winemaker: His father taught him geography, or at least

the way to the Hawthorns, a homing instinct which never left him. Although he experienced disappointments such as a 2-4 FA Cup defeat to Woking, there were the highs of Astle's winner in the 1968 FA Cup final and the 2007 play-off semi-final victory over arch rivals Wolves. It is a pity that he has gone from us just before Albion's 2008 cup and promotion double.

Hank Apache: Shortly afterwards he retired to Runcorn on the strength of his royalties surrounded by his adoring wife and children. He spent the last 50 years of his life engaged in a detailed study of the films of the late Jack Hawkins and attending the triennial instalment of Shadows retirement concert tours. His last illness was very short having

been brought on by an attempt to break dance.

Didcot Man: In his later years he was an unpaid volunteer blogger, bringing comfort and amusement to several readers on MyTelegraph with his pithy observations on the development of the metropolis that Didcot became. He will be laid to rest in Samantha Fox's bosom.

● A website allowing bereaved relatives and friends to post tributes following the death of a loved one was launched yesterday as the popularity of online obituaries soar.

The website, friendsremembered.co.uk, asks users to pay between £10 and £15 before posting a tribute of up to 2,000 words. Memorial websites – such as missyou.org.uk, muchloved.com

and gonetoooon.co.uk – now generate thousands of hits, emulating the success of similar websites in the United States.

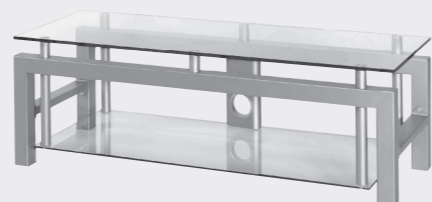
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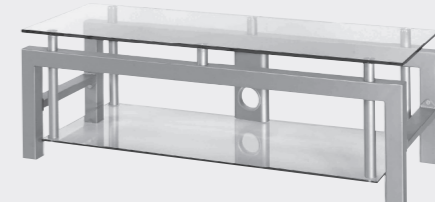
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