

24/07/2019

New education & religious affairs ministry ends previous gov't intent to abolish morning school prayer



Greece's new education and religious ministry leadership is quickly proceeding with initiatives in the education sector, while at the same time ending a dialogue, commenced and promoted by the previous government, to abolish the daily morning prayer at public schools around Greece, as well as the traditional blessing held at the beginning of the academic year.

Moreover, new Minister Niki Kerameos also reversed a controversial decision by her predecessor to begin the school day at elementary schools at 9 a.m., instead of the first bell ringing at 8.15 , as was the case for decades in Greece.

Overall Church-state relations also dramatically improved in the wake of the new Mitsotakis government assuming power this month, with both the new prime minister and Kerameos meeting with Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos.

On his part, the Metropolitan of Nafpaktos, His Eminence Ierotheos, who chaired a Holy Synod committee tasked with holding talks with the previous government, published an article this week, noting that the Mitsotakis government is implementing its pre-election commitments in terms of Church-state relations.

He also said unanimous decisions taken by the Holy Synod in March 2016 and March 2019, regarding Church-state relations, are standing.