firstly, switzerland. it's a far less tolerant country than it's often portrayed to be, for example it was surprisingly recently they actually gave women the vote...

Starbuzzz wrote on Tue, 19 January 2010 11:49I am saying it is too early to push for a secular society...when religion is still strong. Religion seeks to only divide people and always wants more power. Always. Their quest for power will only stop/slow the progress towards a secular environment.
i would argue that this is why we're arguing in favour of secularism not too early, but far too late. well, not "too" late, but later than we should.

Quote:If they want to build minarets then fine yes. But let's remember that this is the same group of people that cannot understand freedom of speech and expression and throw a violent protest everytime a cartoon is drawn; no one should be making any compromises to satisfy them and put up with their requirements.
I agree with not being forced to make compromises, but letting them build their own religious temples really isn't a compromise.

Quote:I am just trying to point out that in the secularists eager bid to create a equal environment for everybody they are ending up creating a society that is divided into many tribes which in turn are afraid of offending each other/extra sensitive to each other. That imho is not a secular society.
now you've lost me.... "the secularists eager bid to create an equal environment for everybody"? you'll have to explain this a bit more clearly for me, i.e. who are you talking about and what are they doing?

Quote:Every group within a society should be tolerant of each other; not just 1 group sucking up, appeasing, and trying to please and accomodate another vicious group. That imo is not secularism.
of course it isn't secularism.

nikki, off topic slightly but on the subject of education in britain, two things worth knowing.
1. daily prayer is compulsory (usually of a christian nature although we now have a load of islamic faith schools too)
2. the stupid bible myths are taught with the same level of certainty as what we were taught in history, geography, maths etc

by all means we should teach kids about religion for the same reason we should teach them about politics. but i've said before and i'll say again: it's immoral to do so dishonestly. for example, if you're teaching christianity to a kid, you'd better be telling him the bad points as well as the "good", e.g. the complete lack of evidence for its truthfulness, its indescribably evil track record throughout history etc