**Scenario:**

It was the beginning of the summer holidays and the three new friends were super-happy. They had all just moved into new houses on Eagle Way in the same week and had already become best mates. First, Jack and Mohammad had started talking in the hallway of their small block of flats and quickly become friends playing football out the back. They had met Lily because she’d been in goal – she was the best goalie they’d ever seen! Over the following weeks they had become inseparable – the other kids even started calling them ‘the 3 amigos’.

So, when Jack, Mohammad and Lily heard that a brand-new school was opening just two minutes down the road from them – they were really happy. “We can all go there together – maybe we’ll all be in the same class!” suggested Lily excitedly. They talked about it all the next week and made plans about everything they would do at their fantastic new school.

But when Mohammad mentioned the new school to his dad he was surprised by his response.

“You can’t go to the new school – we are Muslims, and that school is Christian – everything the school does will be rooted in Christianity – we’d basically have to pretend to be Christians – and that’s not right for anyone.”

When Lily spoke to her mum about the school, she too was shocked.

“I’m sorry Lily but that new school is going to be religious, and they will tell you things about the world that I really don’t agree with or believe in…”

And when Jack spoke to his parents, they too had bad news. “Your year group has too many children who want to go to the school, so they’re only allowing children who attend their church to go… sorry son.”

When the 3 amigos met the next day, they felt so sad and disappointed by the news they’d received the previous evening. They just couldn’t understand why the new school was going to be religious. If it was an inclusive community school, then they would all have been able to go together – to their local school that was just 2 minutes’ walk from their houses. Now they would all have to go to different schools all over town that were miles away and get buses to get there.

“This makes no sense - this is crazy!” They all said together…

**Glossary:**

• Secularist (a person who believes that religion and government should be kept separate)