



# Education Reform Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 40

### PART I

#### SCHOOLS

#### CHAPTER I

##### THE CURRICULUM

##### *Principal provisions*

### **3 Foundation subjects and key stages**

- (1) Subject to subsection (4) below, the core subjects are—
  - (a) mathematics, English and science; and
  - (b) in relation to schools in Wales which are Welsh-speaking schools, Welsh.
- (2) Subject to subsection (4) below, the other foundation subjects are—
  - (a) history, geography, technology, music, art and physical education;
  - (b) in relation to the third and fourth key stages, a modern foreign language specified in an order of the Secretary of State; and
  - (c) in relation to schools in Wales which are not Welsh-speaking schools, Welsh.
- (3) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) below, the key stages in relation to a pupil are as follows—
  - (a) the period beginning with his becoming of compulsory school age and ending at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of seven;
  - (b) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of eight and ending at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of eleven;

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (c) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of twelve and ending at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of fourteen;
  - (d) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of fifteen and ending with the majority of pupils in his class ceasing to be of compulsory school age.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order—
- (a) amend the foregoing provisions of this section; or
  - (b) provide that, in relation to any subject specified in the order, subsection (3) above shall have effect as if for the ages of seven and eight there mentioned there were substituted such other ages, less than eleven and twelve respectively, as may be so specified.
- (5) The head teacher of a school may elect, in relation to a particular pupil and a particular subject, that subsection (3) above shall have effect as if any reference to the school year in which the majority of pupils in that pupil's class attained a particular age were a reference to the school year in which that pupil attained that age.
- (6) In this section—
- “class”, in relation to a particular pupil and a particular subject, means the teaching group in which he is regularly taught that subject or, where there are two or more such groups, such one of them as may be designated by the head teacher of the school;
  - “school”, except in subsection (5) above and the above definition, includes part of a school.
- (7) For the purposes of this section a school in Wales is a Welsh-speaking school if more than one half of the following subjects, namely—
- (a) religious education; and
  - (b) the subjects other than English and Welsh which are foundation subjects in relation to pupils at the school;
- are taught (wholly or partly) in Welsh.