

---

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

---

**2005 No. 1117**

**The Special Educational Needs and  
Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005**

**PART II**

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

*General duties of boards*

**Advice and information for parents**

4. In the 1996 Order, after Article 21 insert—

*“General duties of boards*

**Advice and information for parents**

**21A.**—(1) A board shall arrange for the parent of any child in its area with special educational needs to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to those needs.

(2) In making the arrangements, the board shall have regard to any guidance given by the Department.

(3) The board shall take such steps as it considers appropriate for making the services provided under paragraph (1) known to—

- (a) the parents of children in its area;
- (b) the principals and Boards of Governors of grant-aided schools in its area;
- (c) the principals and proprietors of independent schools in its area; and
- (d) such other persons as it considers appropriate.”

**Resolution of disputes**

5. In the 1996 Order after Article 21A insert—

**“Resolution of disputes**

**21B.**—(1) A board shall make arrangements with a view to avoiding or resolving disagreements between boards or Boards of Governors of grant-aided schools (on the one hand) and parents of children in its area (on the other) about the exercise by boards or Boards of Governors of functions under this Part.

(2) A board shall also make arrangements with a view to avoiding or resolving, in each relevant school, disagreements between the parents of a child who is a registered pupil at

the school and has special educational needs and the Board of Governors or proprietor of the school about the special educational provision made for that child.

(3) In paragraph (2) “relevant school” means—

- (a) a grant-aided school;
- (b) an independent school which is named in the statement maintained for the child under Article 16.

(4) The arrangements under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall provide for the appointment of independent persons with the function of facilitating the avoidance or resolution of such disagreements.

(5) In making the arrangements, the board shall have regard to any guidance given by the Department.

(6) The board shall take such steps as it considers appropriate for making the arrangements made under paragraphs (1) and (2) known to—

- (a) the parents of children in its area;
- (b) the principals and Boards of Governors of grant-aided schools in its area;
- (c) the principals and proprietors of independent schools in its area; and
- (d) such other persons as it considers appropriate.

(7) The arrangements do not affect the entitlement of a parent to appeal to the Tribunal.”.

#### **Compliance with orders of Tribunal**

6. In the 1996 Order after Article 23 insert—

##### **“Compliance with orders**

**23A.** If the Tribunal makes an order, the board concerned must comply with the order before the end of the prescribed period beginning with the date on which it is made.”.