



# Education Reform Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 40

### PART I

#### SCHOOLS

#### CHAPTER IV

#### GRANT-MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

#### *Religious education*

#### **84 Religious education in former county schools**

- (1) This section applies to a grant-maintained school which was a county school immediately before it became a grant-maintained school; but the provisions of this section are subject to section 87 of this Act.
- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, in the case of a school to which this section applies the collective worship required in the school by section 6 of this Act shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, collective worship is of a broadly Christian character if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
- (4) Every act of collective worship required by section 6 of this Act in the case of a school to which this section applies need not comply with subsection (2) above provided that, taking any school term as a whole, most such acts which take place in the school do comply with that subsection.
- (5) Subject to subsections (2) and (4) above—
  - (a) the extent to which (if at all) any acts of collective worship required by section 6 of this Act which do not comply with subsection (2) above take place in such a school;

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- (b) the extent to which any act of collective worship in such a school which complies with subsection (2) above reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief; and
- (c) the ways in which those traditions are reflected in any such act of collective worship;

shall be such as may be appropriate having regard to any relevant considerations relating to the pupils concerned which fall to be taken into account in accordance with subsection (6) below.

- (6) Those considerations are—
  - (a) any circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned which are relevant for determining the character of the collective worship which is appropriate in their case; and
  - (b) their ages and aptitudes.
- (7) In the case of a school to which this section applies the provision for religious education for pupils at the school which is required by section 2(1)(a) of this Act to be included in the school's basic curriculum shall be provision for religious education in accordance with the appropriate agreed syllabus.
- (8) That syllabus shall not provide for religious education to be given to pupils at such a school by means of any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of any particular religious denomination; but this provision is not to be taken as prohibiting provision in that syllabus for the study of such catechisms or formularies.
- (9) Subject to section 88(3) of this Act, for the purposes of subsection (7) above "the appropriate agreed syllabus" is, in relation to a school to which this section applies or to any pupils at the school, the agreed syllabus which immediately before the school became a grant-maintained school was adopted under Schedule 5 to the 1944 Act for use in the school or for those pupils.
- (10) The arrangements for the collective worship in a school to which this section applies required by section 6 of this Act shall be made by the head teacher after consultation with the governing body.
- (11) Subsection (12) below applies where a secondary school to which this section applies is so situated that arrangements cannot conveniently be made for the withdrawal of pupils from the school in accordance with section 9 of this Act to receive religious education elsewhere.
- (12) If in any such case the governing body are satisfied—
  - (a) that the parents of pupils in attendance at the school desire them to receive religious education in the school in accordance with the tenets of a particular religious denomination; and
  - (b) that satisfactory arrangements have been made for the provision of such education to those pupils in the school and for securing that the cost of providing such education to those pupils in the school will not fall upon the governing body;

the governing body shall, unless they are satisfied that owing to any special circumstances it would be unreasonable to do so, provide facilities for the carrying out of those arrangements.

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- (13) No person shall be disqualified by reason of his religious opinions, or of his attending or omitting to attend religious worship, from being a teacher in, or from being otherwise employed for the purposes of, a school to which this section applies.
- (14) No teacher in a school to which this section applies shall be required to give religious education or receive any less emolument or be deprived of, or disqualified for, any promotion or other advantage by reason of the fact that he does or does not give religious education or by reason of his religious opinions or of his attending or omitting to attend religious worship.
- (15) References in this section to acts of collective worship in a school to which this section applies include references to any such act which under section 6 of this Act takes place otherwise than on the school premises.

## **85 Religious education in former controlled schools**

- (1) This section applies to a grant-maintained school which was a controlled school immediately before it became a grant-maintained school; but the provisions of this section are subject to section 87 of this Act.
- (2) Where the parents of any pupils in attendance at a school to which this section applies have requested (whether before or after the school became a grant-maintained school) that they may receive religious education—
  - (a) in accordance with any provisions of the trust deed relating to the school; or
  - (b) where provision for that purpose is not made by such a deed, in accordance with the practice observed in the school before it became a controlled school;the foundation governors shall, unless they are satisfied that owing to special circumstances it would be unreasonable so to do, make arrangements for securing that such religious education is given to those pupils at the school during not more than two periods in each week.
- (3) In the case of a school to which this section applies the provision for religious education for pupils at the school which is required by section 2(1)(a) of this Act to be included in the school's basic curriculum shall be provision for religious education—
  - (a) in accordance with any arrangements made under subsection (2) above; or
  - (b) subject to any such arrangements, in accordance with the appropriate agreed syllabus.
- (4) Subject to section 88(3) of this Act, for the purposes of subsection (3) above “the appropriate agreed syllabus” is, in relation to a school to which this section applies or to any pupils at the school, the agreed syllabus which immediately before the school became a grant-maintained school was adopted under Schedule 5 to the 1944 Act for use in the school or for those pupils.
- (5) No person shall be disqualified by reason of his religious opinions, or of his attending or omitting to attend religious worship, from being employed (otherwise than as a teacher) for the purposes of a school to which this section applies.
- (6) No teacher in a school to which this section applies shall receive any less emolument or be deprived of, or disqualified for, any promotion or other advantage by reason of the fact that he gives religious education or by reason of his religious opinions or of his attending religious worship.

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## **86 Religious education in former aided or special agreement schools**

- (1) This section applies to a grant-maintained school which was an aided or special agreement school immediately before it became a grant-maintained school; but the provisions of this section are subject to section 87 of this Act.
- (2) In the case of a school to which this section applies the provision for religious education for pupils at the school which is required by section 2(1)(a) of this Act to be included in the school's basic curriculum shall be provision for religious education—
  - (a) in accordance with any provisions of the trust deed relating to the school or, where provision for that purpose is not made by such a deed, in accordance with the practice observed in the school before it became a voluntary school; or
  - (b) in accordance with any arrangements made under this section.
- (3) Where the parents of pupils in attendance at such a school—
  - (a) desire them to receive religious education in accordance with any agreed syllabus adopted by the local education authority for the area in which the school is situated for use in schools maintained by the authority; and
  - (b) cannot with reasonable convenience cause those pupils to attend any school at which that syllabus is in use;

then, unless the governing body are satisfied that owing to any special circumstances it would be unreasonable to do so, they shall make arrangements for religious education in accordance with that syllabus to be given to those pupils in the school during the times set apart for the giving of religious education in the school in accordance with the provision for that purpose included in the school's basic curriculum by virtue of section 2(1)(a) of this Act.
- (4) No person shall be disqualified by reason of his religious opinions, or of his attending or omitting to attend religious worship, from being employed (otherwise than as a teacher) for the purposes of a school to which this section applies.
- (5) No teacher in a school to which this section applies shall receive any less emolument or be deprived of, or disqualified for, any promotion or other advantage by reason of the fact that he gives religious education or by reason of his religious opinions or of his attending religious worship.

## **87 Changes in religious education**

- (1) Where, in the case of a grant-maintained school to which section 84(2) to (8) or 85(3) of this Act for the time being applies, proposals that the required provision for religious education should be provision for religious education in accordance with the tenets of a particular religious denomination are approved under section 89 of this Act, then, from the time at which the proposals fall to be implemented—
  - (a) the required provision for religious education shall (subject to subsection (2) below) be provision for religious education either in accordance with the tenets of that religious denomination or in accordance with any arrangements made under section 86(3) of this Act (as applied by paragraph (b) below);
  - (b) section 86(3) to (5) of this Act shall apply in relation to the school; and
  - (c) subject to section 88(5) of this Act, any provisions of section 84 or 85 of this Act which apply in relation to the school shall cease to apply in relation to it.

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- (2) Where, in the case of any grant-maintained school, proposals that the required provision for religious education should be provision for religious education otherwise than in accordance with the tenets of a particular religious denomination are approved under section 89 of this Act, then, from the time at which the proposals fall to be implemented—
  - (a) section 84(2) to (8) and (10) to (15) of this Act shall apply in relation to the school; and
  - (b) any provisions of section 85 or 86 of this Act which apply in relation to the school shall cease to apply in relation to it.
- (3) Subject to section 88(3) of this Act, for the purposes of section 84(7) of this Act in its application to a school by virtue of subsection (2) above “the appropriate agreed syllabus” in relation to a school or to any pupils at the school is—
  - (a) the agreed syllabus adopted, or deemed to be adopted, under Schedule 5 to the 1944 Act by the local education authority for the area in which the school is situated for use in the schools maintained by the authority at the time at which the proposals referred to in that subsection fall to be implemented; or
  - (b) where at that time that authority have adopted, or are deemed to have adopted, under that Schedule for use in those schools more than one agreed syllabus, whichever of them the governing body shall determine.
- (4) In this section “the required provision for religious education”, in relation to a school, means the provision for religious education for pupils at the school which is required by section 2(1)(a) of this Act to be included in the school’s basic curriculum.

## **88 Religious education: supplementary**

- (1) Subsections (2) and (3) below shall have effect where any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by a local education authority which is in use at a grant-maintained school (or for any pupils at the school) falls to be reconsidered under Schedule 5 to the 1944 Act.
- (2) The conference convened under that Schedule to reconsider the syllabus shall consult the governing body of the grant-maintained school before making any recommendation.
- (3) Where any new syllabus is adopted, or deemed to be adopted, by the authority under that Schedule in substitution for the existing syllabus, then, for the purposes of section 84(7) of this Act (including that subsection in its application to a school by virtue of section 87(2) of this Act) or 85(3) of this Act “the appropriate agreed syllabus” in relation to the grant-maintained school (or to the pupils in question) shall be—
  - (a) the new syllabus so adopted, or deemed to be adopted; or
  - (b) if more than one new syllabus is so adopted, or deemed to be adopted, whichever of them the governing body shall determine.
- (4) Where, in accordance with section 84, 85 or 86 of this Act or any proposals approved under section 89 of this Act, religious education is given to pupils at a grant-maintained school otherwise than in accordance with an agreed syllabus, such religious education shall not be subject to inspection under section 77 of the 1944 Act.
- (5) Without prejudice to sections 85(5) and (6) and 86(4) and (5) of this Act, where—

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- (a) immediately before a school to which section 85 or 86 of this Act applies became a grant-maintained school any of the provisions of section 30 of the 1944 Act applied with respect to a teacher in the school; or
- (b) the provisions of section 84(13) and (14) of this Act apply with respect to a teacher employed in a grant-maintained school falling within subsection (1) of section 87 of this Act immediately before any proposals such as are referred to in that subsection fall to be implemented;

those provisions shall continue to apply to him until he ceases to be employed as a teacher in the school.