



# Education Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 56

### PART IV

#### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

### CHAPTER I

#### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

##### *Identification and assessment of children with special educational needs*

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>329A Review or assessment of educational needs at request of responsible body**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) a child is a registered pupil at a relevant school (whether or not he is a child in respect of whom a statement is maintained under section 324),
  - (b) the responsible body asks the local education authority to arrange for an assessment to be made in respect of him under section 323, and
  - (c) no such assessment has been made within the period of six months ending with the date on which the request is made.
- (2) If it is necessary for the authority to make an assessment or further assessment under section 323, they must comply with the request.
- (3) Before deciding whether to comply with the request, the authority must serve on the child's parent a notice informing him—
  - (a) that they are considering whether to make an assessment of the child's educational needs,
  - (b) of the procedure to be followed in making the assessment,
  - (c) of the name of their officer from whom further information may be obtained, and

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/06/2001. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Section 329A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (d) of the parent’s right to make representations, and submit written evidence, to them before the end of the period specified in the notice (“the specified period”).
- (4) The specified period must not be less than 29 days beginning with the date on which the notice is served.
- (5) The authority may not decide whether to comply with the request until the specified period has expired.
- (6) The authority must take into account any representations made, and any evidence submitted, to them in response to the notice.
- (7) If, as a result of this section, a local education authority decide to make an assessment under section 323, they must give written notice to the child’s parent and to the responsible body which made the request, of the decision and of their reasons for making it.
- (8) If, after serving a notice under subsection (3), the authority decide not to assess the educational needs of the child—
- (a) they must give written notice of the decision and of their reasons for making it to his parent and to the responsible body which made the request, and
  - (b) the parent may appeal to the Tribunal against the decision.
- (9) A notice given under subsection (8)(a) to the child’s parent must—
- (a) inform the parent of his right to appeal, and
  - (b) contain such other information (if any) as may be prescribed.
- (10) On an appeal under subsection (8) the Tribunal may—
- (a) dismiss it, or
  - (b) order the authority to arrange for an assessment to be made in respect of the child under section 323.
- (11) This section applies to a child for whom relevant nursery education is provided as it applies to a child who is a registered pupil at a relevant school.
- (12) “Relevant school” means—
- (a) a maintained school,
  - (b) a maintained nursery school,
  - (c) a pupil referral unit,
  - (d) an independent school,
  - (e) a school approved under section 342.
- (13) “The responsible body” means—
- (a) in relation to a maintained nursery school or a pupil referral unit, the head teacher,
  - (b) in relation to any other relevant school, the proprietor or head teacher, and
  - (c) in relation to a provider of relevant nursery education, the person or body of persons responsible for the management of the provision of that nursery education.
- (14) “Relevant nursery education” has the same meaning as in section 123 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, except that it does not include nursery education provided by a local education authority at a maintained nursery school.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/06/2001. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Section 329A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

---

(15) “Prescribed”, in relation to Wales, means prescribed in regulations made by the National Assembly for Wales.]

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 329A inserted (15.6.2001 for certain purposes and 1.1.2002 otherwise for E., 21.1.2002 for certain purposes and 1.4.2002 otherwise for W.) by 2001 c. 10, s. 8 (with s. 43(13)); S.I. 2001/2217, arts. 4, 5, Sch. Pts. I, II (as amended by S.I. 2001/2614, art. 4); S.I. 2002/74, **arts. 4, 5**, Sch. Pts. I, II

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** S. 329A modified (prosp.) by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (c. 41), **ss. 36(9)(b)**, 162 (with s. 159)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 15/06/2001. This version of this provision has been superseded.

**Changes to legislation:**

Education Act 1996, Section 329A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.