

*These notes refer to the Education Act 2002 (c.32)
which received Royal Assent on 24 July 2002*

EDUCATION ACT 2002

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS AND SCHEDULES

Part 6 – the Curriculum in England

The National Curriculum for England

Section 81 and 82: The foundation stage; The key stages

224. These sections re-enact section 355 of the EA 96 and add the foundation stage to the National Curriculum. They set out the key stages in relation to a pupil, which are defined according to age. For example, key stage 2 begins when the majority of children in a pupil's class reach eight and ends when the majority of pupils in a class reach eleven.
225. The foundation stage is defined as beginning when a child first receives publicly funded education on or after his or her third birthday and ending at the same time as the school year in which the child attains the age of five. Key stage 1 begins at the same time as the school year in which the child attains the age of six.