

EDUCATION AND INSPECTIONS ACT 2006

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY

Part 3: Further Provisions about Maintained Schools

Section 55: Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance at religious worship

252. **Section 55** amends section 71 of the 1998 Act.
253. **Subsection (2)** substitutes a new subsection (1) of section 71 to provide for a sixth-form pupil attending a maintained school to be able to withdraw himself from collective worship. In the case of a non sixth form pupil, a parent may request that the pupil be excused. The subsection re-enacts the right of a parent to request that a pupil be excused from receiving religious education.
254. **Subsection (6)** inserts a new **subsection (5A)** of section 71 to place a duty on governing bodies of maintained boarding schools to make arrangements for giving pupils a reasonable opportunity to attend religious education or worship in accordance with the tenets of a particular religion. In the case of a sixth form pupil, the duty arises where the pupil makes such a request. In the case of a non sixth form pupil, the duty arises where a parent makes a request.
255. **Subsection (8)** substitutes a new **subsection (7)** of section 71 to provide for arrangements to be made in regulations allowing a sixth form pupil attending a maintained special school to withdraw from collective worship.
256. **Subsection (9)** inserts a definition of “sixth form pupil”, at new section 71(8).