
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 1966

The Education (School Inspection) Regulations 1997

PART I
GENERAL

Citation, commencement, application and revocation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Education (School Inspection) Regulations 1997 and shall come into force on 1st September 1997.

(2) As from that date, the Regulations listed in Part I of the Schedule shall be revoked and the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) Regulations 1994(1) shall be amended as set out in Part II of the Schedule.

(3) These Regulations other than paragraph (a) of Part II of the Schedule, apply only in relation to schools in England.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“bank holiday” means a day which is a bank holiday in England and Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971(2);

“school year” means the period of twelve months commencing on 1st August;

“the 1996 Act” means the School Inspections Act 1996;

“working day” means any day which is not a Saturday, a Sunday, a bank holiday or part of a holiday longer than a week taken by the school in question; and

any reference to a child who is looked after by a local authority shall have the same meaning as in section 22 of the Children Act 1989(3);

(2) Where these Regulations require an act to be done within a specified period from a specified date the period begins immediately after that date.

(3) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference—

(a) to the Schedule is to the Schedule to these Regulations;

(b) to a numbered regulation is to the regulation in these Regulations bearing that number;

(c) in a regulation to a numbered paragraph is to the paragraph in that regulation bearing that number.

(1) S.I.1994/2103, amended by S.I. 1996/2087.

(2) 1971 c. 80.

(3) 1989 c. 41.

PART II

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

3. In this Part of these Regulations—

“action plan” means the written statement referred to, in the case of a school of any kind mentioned in section 11(2) of the 1996 Act, in section 17(1) of that Act or, in the case of any other school, in section 21(1) of that Act;

“appropriate authority” shall be construed, in the case of a school of any kind mentioned in section 11(2) of the 1996 Act, in accordance with section 11(4) of that Act and, in the case of any other school, in accordance with section 11(5) of that Act;

“Chief Inspector” means Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Schools in England;

“inspection”, means an inspection of a school under section 10 of the 1996 Act;

“inspection team” has the meaning set out in paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 3 to the 1996 Act;

“member of the Inspectorate” means the Chief Inspector, any of Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Schools in England and any additional inspector;

“registered inspector” means an inspector registered under section 7(1) of the 1996 Act;

“school”, where used without qualification, means a school to which section 10 of the 1996 Act applies.

Intervals for inspection

4.—(1) The Chief Inspector shall, subject to paragraph (2), secure that every school is inspected by a registered inspector—

- (a) (i) in the case of a primary school, which was inspected by one or more of Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Schools in England between 1st September 1993 and 31st August 1994 inclusive under section 3 of the Education (Schools) Act 1992(4) and in respect of which the Chief Inspector has sent a report of the inspection to the appropriate authority, on or after 1st September 1994 but before 1st August 1999;
- (ii) in any other case not falling within paragraph (1)(b), on or after 1st September 1994 but before 1st August 1998; and

thereafter, in either case, the Chief Inspector shall secure that subsequent inspections of a school by a registered inspector take place within six school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection of the school took place; and

- (b) in the case of a secondary school which was inspected by a registered inspector on or after 1st September 1993 but before 1st August 1997, the Chief Inspector shall secure that subsequent inspections of such a school by a registered inspector take place within six school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection of the school took place.

(2) In the case of—

- (a) a secondary school to which section 10 of the School Inspections Act 1996 first applies on or after 1st August 1997, and
- (b) any other school to which that section first applies on or after 1st August 1998,

the Chief Inspector shall secure that the school is inspected by a registered inspector within a period of six school years from the end of the school year in which that section first applies to it and, following that inspection, the Chief Inspector shall secure that subsequent inspections of the school

(4) 1992 c. 38.

by a registered inspector take place within six school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection of the school took place.

Notification of inspection

5.—(1) Where an inspection is arranged, the appropriate authority shall, for the purpose of paragraph 6(a) of Schedule 3 to the 1996 Act, take such steps as are reasonably practicable to notify—

- (a) in the case of a county, voluntary or maintained special school which has a delegated budget, a person appearing to them to be an appropriate officer of the local education authority;
- (b) in the case of a county, voluntary or maintained special school which does not have a delegated budget, the chairman of the governing body;
- (c) in the case of a grant-maintained or grant-maintained special school, the funding authority;
- (d) in the case of a voluntary school or a grant-maintained school which, immediately before it became a grant-maintained school, was a voluntary school, the person who appoints the school's foundation governors and, in the case of an aided or special agreement school, the appropriate diocesan authority (if different);
- (e) in the case of a school in a group of grant-maintained schools in respect of which any person has power to appoint an externally appointed core governor under a provision of the instrument of government made in pursuance of Schedule 25 to the Education Act 1996(5); that person;
- (f) in the case of an aided or grant-maintained secondary school the instrument of government of which names a person as a sponsor of the school, that person;
- (g) in the case of a special school which is not maintained by a local education authority, or an independent school approved by the Secretary of State under section 347(1) of the Education Act 1996, the funding authority, a further education funding council or any local education authority, if that body are paying fees in respect of the provision of education to any person at the school;
- (h) in the case of any school at which a registered pupil is a child who is looked after by the local authority, a person appearing to them to be an appropriate officer of that local authority; and
- (i) in the case of a secondary school, the Training and Enterprise Council for the area in which the school is located, and such members of the local business community as the appropriate authority think fit, having regard, in particular, to the desirability of notifying members who employ or have recently employed former pupils of the school

of the time when the inspection is to take place.

(2) In this regulation—

- (a) the expression “a school which has a delegated budget” has the meaning given to that expression in section 115(b) of the Education Act 1996;
- (b) the expression “appropriate diocesan authority” means—
 - (i) in relation to a school in which the religious education provided is provided in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England, the Diocesan Board of Education for the diocese of the Church of England in which the school is situated; and

- (ii) in relation to a school in which the religious education provided is provided in accordance with the faith and practice of the Roman Catholic Church, the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese in which the school is situated;
- (c) the reference to a group of grant-maintained schools is a reference to a group of such schools conducted by a single governing body under Chapter IX of Part III of the Education Act 1996; and
- (d) the expression “externally appointed core governor” has the meaning which that expression has in paragraph 2 of Schedule 25 to the Education Act 1996.

Meeting with parents

6. The appropriate authority, in arranging a meeting pursuant to paragraph 6(b) of Schedule 3 to the 1996 Act, shall—

- (a) arrange for the meeting to take place at a time before the time when the inspection is to begin;
- (b) in selecting the time and place for the meeting, have regard to the convenience of the parents;
- (c) take such steps as are reasonably practicable to give written notification at least three weeks in advance of the time when, and place where, the meeting is to be held to—
 - (i) the parents of registered pupils at the school and, if a registered pupil is a child who is looked after by a local authority, a person appearing to the appropriate authority to be an appropriate officer of that local authority; and
 - (ii) in the case of a special school not being a school maintained by a local education authority, or an independent school approved by the Secretary of State under section 347(1) of the Education Act 1996, a further education funding council or any local education authority, if that body is paying fees in respect of the provision of education to any person at the school and a parent of that person so requests;
- (d) not permit anyone to attend the meeting except—
 - (i) the registered inspector and the inspection team;
 - (ii) any person whom the registered inspector wishes to attend the meeting for the purpose of providing administrative support or recording what is said;
 - (iii) the parents of registered pupils at the school and, if a registered pupil is a child who is looked after by a local authority, a person appearing to the appropriate authority to be an appropriate officer of that local authority;
 - (iv) in the case of a special school not being a school maintained by a local education authority, or an independent school approved by the Secretary of State under section 347(1) of the Education Act 1996, a person appearing to the appropriate authority to be an appropriate officer of a further education funding council or any local education authority, if that body are paying fees in respect of the provision of education to any person at the school and a parent of that person so requests;
 - (v) any member of the Inspectorate monitoring the inspection under section 3(2) of the 1996 Act;
- (e) arrange for the registered inspector to have control of the meeting in all other respects.

Reports

7.—(1) The carrying out of an inspection shall be completed by the expiry of the period of two weeks beginning when the inspection begins to be carried out.

(2) For the purposes of section 15(2) of the 1996 Act there is prescribed, as the period within which the making of the report of an inspection is to be completed, the period of five weeks from the date on which the inspection is completed.

(3) For the purposes of sections 16(4)(c) and 20(4)(c) of the 1996 Act there is prescribed, as the period within which the appropriate authority should take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that every registered parent of a registered pupil at the school receives a copy of the summary of the report of an inspection, the period of ten working days from the date of receipt of the report by the authority.

Action Plans

8.—(1) For the purposes of sections 17(2)(a) and 21(2)(a) of the 1996 Act there is prescribed, as the period within which the appropriate authority are to prepare an action plan, the period of forty working days from the date on which they receive the report.

(2) For the purpose of section 17(3) and (4) and section 21(3) and (4) of the 1996 Act there is prescribed, as the period within which the appropriate authority are to distribute in accordance with those enactments copies of an action plan prepared by them—

- (a) where the report does not state that the registered inspector is of the opinion that special measures are required to be taken in relation to the school, or where it does so and also states that the Chief Inspector disagrees with his opinion, five working days from the date on which the appropriate authority complete the preparation of the action plan; and
- (b) where the person making the report states that he is of the opinion that special measures are required to be taken in relation to the school, and either that person is a member of the Inspectorate or the report states that the Chief Inspector agrees with his opinion,
 - (i) two days from the date on which the appropriate authority complete the preparation of the action plan; or
 - (ii) two days from the expiry of the period prescribed by paragraph (1),
whichever first occurs.

(3) Where an action plan has been prepared by the appropriate authority they shall send copies of it (in addition to the persons mentioned in section 21(3) and (4) of the 1996 Act or subsections (3) and (5), or (3) to (5), of section 17 of the 1996 Act, as the case may be) as follows—

- (a) in all cases, to all persons employed at the school;
- (b) in the case of a secondary school, to the Training and Enterprise Council for the area in which the school is situated; and
- (c) in the case of a special school not being maintained by a local education authority, or an independent school approved by the Secretary of State under section 347(1) of the Education Act 1996, to a further education funding council or any local education authority, if that body are paying fees in respect of the provision of education to any person at the school.

(4) For the purposes of calculating the period prescribed by paragraph (2)(b) no account shall be taken of Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day or any day which is a bank holiday.

Statements

9.—(1) For the purposes of section 18(3)(a) of the 1996 Act there is prescribed, as the period within which a local education authority are to prepare the statement referred to in section 18(2), the period of—

- (a) ten days from the date on which they receive a copy of the action plan in respect of the school in question; or

(b) twelve days from the expiry of the period prescribed by regulation 8(1), whichever first occurs.

(2) For the purposes of calculating the period prescribed by paragraph (1) no account shall be taken of Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day or any day which is a bank holiday.

Fees for provision of the report and summary and of the action plan

10.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), an appropriate authority may require payment of a fee (not exceeding the cost of supply) where they provide,—

- (a) under sections 16(4)(b) or 20(4)(b) of the 1996 Act,—
 - (i) a copy of a report to a person who is not otherwise entitled to receive a copy of that report; or
 - (ii) a copy of a summary to any person to whom they have previously provided a copy of that summary; or
- (b) under sections 17(6)(b) or 21(5)(b) of the 1996 Act, a copy of an action plan to any person—
 - (i) who is not otherwise entitled to receive a copy of that action plan and whose home or whose principal office is located outside a radius of three miles from the school; or
 - (ii) to whom they have previously provided a copy of that action plan.

(2) An appropriate authority may not require payment by the funding authority of a fee under paragraph (1) where they provide to the funding authority a copy of a report or action plan in respect of a grant-maintained or grant-maintained special school and they have not previously provided a copy of that report or action plan to the authority.

PART III

INSPECTIONS OF DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION

11. In this Part of these Regulations—

“action plan” means the written statement referred to in paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 4 to the 1996 Act;

“denominational education”, in relation to a school, means any religious education which—

- (a) is required by section 352(1)(a) of the Education Act 1996 to be included in the school’s basic curriculum, but
- (b) is not required by any enactment to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus;

“inspection” means an inspection of a school under section 23 of the 1996 Act; and

“inspector” means the person conducting the inspection.

Intervals for inspection

12.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where the governing body of a voluntary or grant-maintained school are required by section 23 of the 1996 Act to secure that the denominational education given to any pupils or the content of the school’s collective worship (or both) are inspected they shall—

- (a) in the case of a secondary school which was inspected on or after 1st September 1993 but before 1st August 1997, secure that subsequent inspections take place within six school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place;

- (b) in any other case, secure that the inspection takes place on or after 1st September 1994 but before 1st August 1998 and thereafter that subsequent inspections take place within six school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place.
- (2) In the case of—
- (a) the governing body of a secondary school which first has a duty to secure an inspection under section 23 of the 1996 Act on or after 1st August 1997, and
 - (b) the governing body of any other school which first has a duty to secure an inspection under that section on or after 1st August 1998,

the governing body shall secure that the inspection takes place within a period of six years from the end of the school year in which that duty first arises and, thereafter, that subsequent inspections take place within six school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place.

Reports and Action Plans

- 13.**—(1) An inspection shall be carried out during a period not exceeding two weeks.
- (2) The inspector shall, within five weeks from the date when the inspection is completed, prepare in writing a report of the inspection and a summary of the report.
- (3) The governing body shall, within forty working days from the date when the inspector reported to them, prepare an action plan.
- (4) The governing body shall, within five working days from the date when they complete the preparation of the action plan, send copies of it to the following persons (in addition to the persons mentioned in paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 4 to the 1996 Act)—
- (a) all person employed as teachers at the school or to participate in the school’s collective worship;
 - (b) in the case of a grant-maintained school, the funding authority;
 - (c) in the case of a school in a group of grant-maintained schools in respect of which any person has power to appoint an externally appointed core governor under a provision of the instrument of government made in pursuance of Schedule 25 to the Education Act 1996, that person; and
 - (d) in the case of an aided or grant-maintained secondary school the instrument of government of which names a person as a sponsor of the school, that person.

Fees for provision of the report and summary and of the action plan

- 14.**—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a governing body may require payment of a fee (not exceeding the cost of supply) where they provide,
- (a) under paragraph 2(4)(b) of Schedule 4 to the 1996 Act—
 - (i) a copy of a report to any person who asks for one;
 - (ii) a copy of a summary to any person to whom they have previously provided a copy of that summary; or
 - (b) under paragraph 3(3)(b) of Schedule 4 to the 1996 Act a copy of an action plan to any person—
 - (i) who is not otherwise entitled to receive a copy of that action plan and whose home or whose principal office is located outside a radius of three miles from the school; or
 - (ii) to whom they have previously provided a copy of that action plan.
- (2) A governing body may not require payment of a fee under paragraph (1) if the document containing the copy of the report or summary, as the case may be, forms part of or is otherwise bound

with a document containing a copy of the report or summary referred to in regulation 7 of these Regulations and a fee has been paid under regulation 10 of these Regulations.

(3) A governing body may not require payment by the funding authority of a fee under paragraph (1) where they provide to the funding authority a copy of a report or action plan in respect of a grant-maintained school and they have not previously provided a copy of that report or action plan to the authority.

PART IV

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS

15.—(1) For each financial year in which a local education authority provide a school inspection service, the authority shall keep accounts in respect of the service provided by them in that year.

(2) In this regulation—

“financial year” means a period of twelve months beginning with 1st April; and

“school inspection service” has the meaning set out in section 24(2) of the 1996 Act.

6th August 1997

Tessa Blackstone
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Department for Education and Employment