



2022 CHAPTER 15

Integrated education

Meaning of “integrated education”

1.—(1) “Integrated education” means the education together, in an integrated school, of—

- (a) those of different cultures and religious beliefs and of none, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Roman Catholic children or young persons;
- (b) those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not; and
- (c) those of different abilities.

(2) An “integrated school” is a school which—

- (a) intentionally supports, protects and advances an ethos of diversity, respect and understanding between those of different cultures and religious beliefs and of none, between those of different socio-economic backgrounds and between those of different abilities, and

(b) has acquired—

- (i) grant-maintained integrated status, or
- (ii) controlled integrated status

under the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) apply for the purposes of—

- (a) this Act;
- (b) the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989;

- (c) section 2(3A) of the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (inserted by section 4 of this Act);
- (d) the Shared Education (Northern Ireland) Act 2016; and
- (e) any other provision of Northern Ireland legislation (unless it contains a different definition).

Purpose of integrated education

2. The purpose of integrated education is—
 - (a) to deliver educational benefits to children and young persons;
 - (b) to promote awareness and appreciation of human rights;
 - (c) to promote equality of opportunity;
 - (d) to promote good relations; and
 - (e) to promote respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.

Advisory body

3. In exercising any functions relating to integrated education the Department of Education must consult with—
 - (a) any body appearing to the Department of Education to have as an objective the encouragement or promotion of integrated education, and if required
 - (b) any other body the Department of Education considers appropriate.