

School Premises (Standards) Regulations

REGULATIONS, DATED 17TH JULY, 1957, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ACTS (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1947 TO 1956.

1957. No. 135

[C]

The Ministry of Education in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Sections 7 and 112 of the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1947, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following Regulations:—

PART I**CITATION AND DEFINITIONS**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the School Premises (Standards) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1957.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st October, 1957.

2. In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them, that is to say:—

“enrolment” means in relation to any school the approved maximum number of pupils for whom it is intended that permanent provision should be made in the school;

“ordinary classroom” means a classroom which is not a special subjects room;

“paved space” means an outdoor area having a hard impervious surface;

“school” means grant-aided school;

“special subjects room” means a classroom specially designed and equipped for the teaching of a particular subject or group of subjects.

PART II**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS***Fire Precautions*

3. In every school the design, the construction, the fire resistance of the elements of the structure and the properties of the materials shall in all parts of the school buildings be such that the safe escape of the occupants in the event of fire shall be reasonably assured.

Lighting

4. In every school the lighting, both natural and artificial, of each teaching room or other space shall be adequate and appropriate for the purpose for which the room or other space is normally to be used.

Ventilation and Heating

5.—(1) In every school each teaching room shall be provided with means of ventilation such that there shall be not less than two air changes per hour.

(2) In every school, in each room in which there may be steam or noxious fumes, adequate measures shall be taken to prevent condensation or to expel noxious fumes as the case may be.

(3) The heating system of every school shall be such that, when the school is adequately ventilated as provided in paragraph (1), the temperature of each room or other space may be appropriate for the purpose for which the room or other space is used.

Water Supply

6.—(1) In every school an adequate supply of wholesome water shall be provided for drinking.

(2) Where a public supply of piped water is provided to such a point as to make it reasonable that a school should be connected thereto, the school shall be so connected unless an adequate and suitable supply of water is available from some other source.

Sanitation

7.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (5) there shall be provided in every school:—

- (a) if the number of girls included in the enrolment does not exceed 160, one water-closet for every 16 girls; and
- (b) if the number of girls included in the enrolment exceeds 160, 10 girls' water-closets and in addition one water-closet for every 20 girls in excess of 160; and
- (c) if the number of boys included in the enrolment does not exceed 160, one water-closet for every 40 boys; and
- (d) if the number of boys included in the enrolment exceeds 160, 4 boys' water-closets and in addition one water-closet for every 50 boys in excess of 160.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (5) there shall be provided in every school 2 feet of urinal space or one urinal stall for every 16 boys included in the enrolment.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (5) there shall be provided:—

- (a) in every school in which the enrolment does not exceed 320, one wash-basin with a suitable supply of warm water for every 20 pupils; and
- (b) in every school in which the enrolment exceeds 320, 16 such wash-basins and in addition one such wash-basin for every 25 pupils in excess of 320.

(4) If the number of boys or girls or pupils included in the enrolment of a school (or for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (b) and (d) of paragraph (1) and sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (3) the number of such boys or girls or pupils in excess of 160 or 320 as the case may be) is not a multiple of the number of boys or girls or pupils for whom one or one additional water-closet, urinal stall or wash-basin is to be provided in accordance with

the provisions of this Regulation, it shall be deemed to be the next higher multiple of such number.

(5) Where a school is not connected to a public supply of piped water and cannot reasonably be so connected, and an adequate supply of water is not available and cannot reasonably be made available from some other source, such alternative sanitary provision shall be made for the purposes of this Regulation as the Ministry may approve.

(6) This Regulation shall not apply to nursery schools or to nursery classes and for the purposes of this Regulation children in nursery classes shall not be taken into account in determining the enrolment of a school.

Medical Inspection

8. Accommodation shall be available in every school for the medical inspection of pupils and for that purpose shall be provided with a wash basin with a supply of hot and cold water:

Provided that it shall not be necessary to reserve such accommodation exclusively for use for medical inspection.

Cloak and Storage Space

9.—(1) In every school sufficient and suitable facilities shall be provided for storing and drying pupils' outdoor clothing.

(2) In every school sufficient and suitable facilities shall be provided for the storage of apparatus, equipment and materials required for teaching and for the operation of the school.

(3) In every school separate and suitably situated accommodation shall be provided for the storage of fuel.

PART III

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sites

10.—(1) The site of every primary school shall comprise an area sufficient to accommodate in a satisfactory manner the school buildings and in addition a paved space or, in the case of a school where the enrolment exceeds 144, paved spaces, laid on suitable foundations and properly graded and drained, of suitable dimensions and not less in total area than—

- (a) 400 square yards if the enrolment does not exceed 24;
- (b) 600 square yards if the enrolment exceeds 24 but does not exceed 104; and
- (c) if the enrolment exceeds 104, 600 square yards increased by 200 square yards for every 40 pupils in excess of 104; provided that where the excess is not a multiple of 40 it shall be deemed for the purposes of this subparagraph to be the next lower multiple of 40.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (1), in every primary school where the enrolment exceeds 144 there shall be two paved spaces, and no such space shall be less than 400 square yards in area.

Grass Areas

11. Every primary school shall have appropriated to it a grass area or grass areas suitable for playing games and not less in total area than is shown in the following table opposite the enrolment of the school:—

<i>Enrolment of the School.</i>	<i>Total Grass Area</i>
Not more than 24	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre
More than 24 but not more than 84	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre
More than 84 but not more than 184	acre
More than 184 but not more than 384	$1\frac{1}{4}$ acres
More than 384, but not more than 584	$1\frac{3}{4}$ acres
More than 584	$2\frac{1}{2}$ acres

Teaching Accommodation

12.—(1) Every primary school shall include teaching accommodation not less in total area than is shown in column (2) of the following table opposite the enrolment of the school:—

(1) <i>Enrolment of the school</i>	(2) <i>Total area of teaching accommodation in square feet</i>	(3) <i>Number of Classrooms</i>	(4) <i>Area of additional room or hall in square feet</i>
24	600	1	200
44	1,100	2	300
64	1,350	2	450
84	1,850	3	550
104	2,100	3	600
144	3,250	4	1,200
184	4,010	5	1,200
224	4,650	6	1,200
264	5,560	7	1,500
304	6,110	8	1,650
344	6,660	9	1,650
384	7,180	10	1,650
424	7,830	11	1,750
464	8,380	12	1,750
504	9,020	13	1,750
544	9,570	14	1,750
584	10,090	15	1,750

Provided that where the enrolment exceeds 584 the area of teaching accommodation shall be such as the Ministry may approve, not being less than the area appropriate for a school where the enrolment is 584.

(2) The teaching accommodation specified in paragraph (1) shall include the number of classrooms specified in column (3) and in addition a room or hall not less in area than is shown in column (4) of the table opposite the enrolment of the school.

(3) The minimum area of a classroom in a primary school (other than a classroom which is additional to the accommodation prescribed in paragraphs (1) and (2)) shall be:

- (a) 400 square feet if the enrolment of the school does not exceed 84;
- (b) 450 square feet if the enrolment of the school exceeds 84 but does not exceed 144; and

(c) 520 square feet if the enrolment of the school exceeds 144:

Provided that in a school where the enrolment exceeds 264 one of the classrooms may be less than 520 square feet but not less than 400 square feet in area.

(4) This Regulation shall not apply to nursery schools or to nursery classes, and for the purposes of this Regulation children in nursery classes shall not be taken into account in determining the enrolment of a school.

Staff Accommodation

13.—(1) In every primary school where the enrolment exceeds 64 a staff room shall be provided.

(2) In every primary school where the enrolment exceeds 184 a separate room shall be provided for the principal.

(3) In every primary school suitable cloakroom, washing and sanitary accommodation shall be provided for the use of the teaching staff.

PART IV

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Sites

14. The site of every secondary school shall comprise an area sufficient to accommodate in a satisfactory manner the school buildings and in addition a paved space or paved spaces, laid on suitable foundations and properly graded and drained, of suitable dimensions and not less in total area than:

(a) 1,250 square yards, or

(b) 180 square yards for every 30 pupils of the enrolment whichever is the greater, provided, however, that where the enrolment is not a multiple of 30 it shall be deemed for the purposes of this Regulation to be the next lower multiple of 30.

Playing Fields

15.—(1) Every secondary school shall have appropriated to it a playing field or fields, laid out in pitches which are of suitable dimensions and are not less in total area than is shown in the following table opposite the enrolment of the school:—

<i>Enrolment of the School</i>	<i>Total Area of Pitches</i>
Not more than 180 4 acres
More than 180 but not more than 420 6 acres
More than 420 but not more than 560 8 acres
More than 560 but not more than 700 10 acres
More than 700 12 acres

(2) There shall be provided for each secondary school a number of hard courts suitably marked out for games, such that:

(a) where the school is attended by boys only or where the enrolment does not exceed 140 there shall be at least 2 such courts, and

- (b) where the enrolment includes girls and exceeds 140 there shall be provided at least 4 such courts.

Teaching Accommodation

16.—(1) Every intermediate school shall include teaching accommodation not less in total area than is shown in column (2) of the following table opposite the enrolment of the school:—

(1) <i>Enrolment of the school</i>	(2) <i>Total area of teaching accommodation in square feet</i>
130	6,700
260	11,400
390	14,950
520	21,850
650	25,800
780	28,600

(2) The area shown in column (2) of the said table shall include a hall if the enrolment is less than 520 and shall include two halls if the enrolment is 520 or more, such hall or halls being so designed and equipped that:

- (a) in a school where the enrolment is 130 or 260 the hall shall be suitable for use as both a gymnasium and an assembly hall;
- (b) in a school where the enrolment is 390, the hall shall be suitable for use as a gymnasium and, if a second hall designed for use as an assembly hall is not provided, also suitable for use as an assembly hall; and
- (c) in a school where the enrolment is 520 or more, one of the halls shall be a gymnasium and the other shall be either a gymnasium or an assembly hall or shall be suitable for use as both a gymnasium and an assembly hall.

(3) In every intermediate school the teaching accommodation shall include such ordinary classrooms and special subjects rooms as, having regard to the courses which it is intended to provide, the Ministry may approve.

(4) Where the enrolment of an intermediate school is not one of the enrolments shown in column (1) of the table in paragraph (1), the teaching accommodation appropriate for the school shall be such as, having regard to the amount and nature of the teaching accommodation prescribed by this Regulation for the enrolment shown in the said column (1) which most nearly corresponds to the enrolment of the said school, the Ministry may approve.

(5) This Regulation shall not apply to technical intermediate schools.

17. The teaching accommodation of every grammar school and every technical intermediate school shall include—

- (a) such ordinary classrooms and special subjects rooms as, having regard to the courses which it is intended that the school shall provide, the Ministry may approve;
- (b) a hall of such dimensions and so designed and equipped as to be suitable for use as a gymnasium; and
- (c) if the enrolment exceeds 400, an assembly hall.

18.—(1) The minimum area of an ordinary classroom in a secondary school shall be 480 square feet:

Provided that a smaller area may be approved if the classroom is intended for a class or group of not more than 20 pupils.

(2) The minimum area of a special subjects room in a secondary school other than a music room shall be 720 square feet:

Provided that in special circumstances the Ministry may approve a smaller area if it is satisfied that the room will be suitable for the purpose for which it is to be used.

(3) The minimum area of a hall in a secondary school, being a hall designed for use as a gymnasium or for use as both a gymnasium and an assembly hall, shall be 2,000 square feet. There shall be provided in association with such hall adequate and suitable ancillary accommodation including changing rooms and suitable facilities for ablution.

Staff Accommodation

19. In every secondary school there shall be provided:

- (a) a staff room,
- (b) a separate room for the principal, and
- (c) suitable cloakroom, washing and sanitary accommodation for the use of the teaching staff.

PART V

NURSERY SCHOOLS AND CLASSES

Sites

20.—(1) The site of every nursery school shall comprise an area sufficient to accommodate in satisfactory manner the buildings required for the purposes of the school and in addition to enable provision to be made for such facilities as are specified in paragraph (2).

(2) The site of every nursery school shall include, and every nursery class shall have available, an outdoor playing space comprising an area of not less than 100 square feet for each child, a part of which, to the extent of 40 square feet for each child, shall be a paved space, laid on suitable foundations and properly graded and drained.

Accommodation

21. In every nursery school and nursery class the playroom accommodation shall comprise an area of not less than 25 square feet for each child.

Sanitary Accommodation

22. In every nursery school and for every nursery class there shall be provided at least one water-closet for every 10 children and at least one wash-basin for every 5 children.

Staff Accommodation

23. In every nursery school a room shall be provided for the teaching staff together with suitable cloakroom, washing and sanitary accommodation.

School Meals Facilities

24. The school meals facilities provided in accordance with Regulation 26 shall in the case of nursery schools and nursery classes be such as to be appropriate to the special needs of children in such schools or classes.

PART VI

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

25. The Regulations in Part III shall apply to special schools as they apply to primary schools subject to such modifications as the Ministry may in any particular school consider necessary, having regard to the special needs of the category or categories of pupils requiring special educational treatment who may be expected to attend the school.

PART VII

SCHOOL MEALS ACCOMMODATION

26. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Milk and Meals Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1955, or any Regulations amending or superseding those Regulations, and subject thereto, there shall be provided at every school attended by day pupils adequate, suitable and conveniently situated accommodation for the preparation, service and consumption of school meals: provided that—

- (a) accommodation for the preparation or service or consumption of school meals need not be provided if approved arrangements are made for such preparation or service or consumption as the case may be other than on the school premises, and
- (b) accommodation shall not be deemed to be inadequate or unsuitable for school meals purposes solely on the grounds that it is not reserved exclusively for such purposes.

PART VIII

BOARDING ACCOMMODATION

27.—(1) In every dormitory for pupils there shall be:

- (a) a floor area of not less than 50 square feet for each of the first two beds and not less than 45 square feet for every bed in excess of two; and

(b) a distance of not less than 3 feet between any two beds.

(2) The floor area of a cubicle for a pupil shall be not less than 50 square feet and of a bedroom for a pupil be not less than 60 square feet.

28. Boarding accommodation for pupils shall not be regarded as suitable unless it includes

- (a) adequate and conveniently placed washing and other sanitary facilities for the use of pupils;
- (b) adequate and conveniently placed washing and other sanitary facilities for the use of resident staff separate from those provided for the use of pupils; and
- (c) adequate and otherwise suitable accommodation for the use of pupils for dining and recreational purposes.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 17th day of July, 1957, in the presence of

(L.S.)

R. S. Brownell,
Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations prescribe the standards to which the premises of grant-aided schools are to conform. Subject to the proviso to Sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Education Act (N.I.), 1947, they apply both to existing schools and to new schools to be established in the future. Sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Act reads as follows:—

“(2) Subject as hereinafter provided, it shall be the duty of the managers of every grant-aided school to secure that the premises of the school conform to the standards prescribed for schools of the description to which the school belongs:

“Provided that if the Ministry is satisfied with respect to any school that having regard to the nature of the site or to any existing buildings thereon or to other special circumstances affecting the school it would be unreasonable in that case to require conformity with the regulations in any particular respect, it may direct that the school premises shall be deemed to conform to the prescribed standards if in lieu of conforming to the requirements of the regulations in that respect they conform to such other requirements as may be specified in the direction.”