

1965. No. 82

[C]

## EDUCATION

## School Premises (Standards) Regulations

REGULATIONS, DATED 28TH APRIL, 1965, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1947(a).

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

*Citation and Commencement*

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the School Premises (Standards) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st June, 1965.

(3) The School Premises (Standards) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1957(b) and the School Premises (Standards) Amending Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960(c) are hereby revoked.

*Definitions*

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 a 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 FOR SCHOOLS—INCLUDING BOARDING ACCOMMODATION

*Precautions for Health and Safety*

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

(a) 1947. c. 3.

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1957, No. 135.

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960, No. 104.

### *Structural Loadings*

4. The load bearing structure of every school shall be such as to be capable of safely sustaining and transmitting dead load and imposed loads and the horizontal and inclined forces to which it is likely to be subjected.

### *Protection against the Weather*

5. The buildings of every school shall be so designed and constructed as to resist the penetration of rain, snow, wind and moisture rising from the ground.

### *Acoustics*

6. In all parts of the building of every school the acoustic conditions and the insulation against disturbance by noise shall be appropriate to the use of each part of the building.

### *Lighting*

7. 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*

8.—(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*

9.—(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*

10.—(1) Subject to the provision of paragraph 5, water closets shall be provided in every school and, in the case of every such school which includes boys, urinals may be provided, which closets and urinals are hereinafter collectively referred to as sanitary fittings.

(2) For all pupils above the age of 6 separate sanitary fittings shall be provided for boys and girls.

(3) Subject to the provision of paragraph 5, there shall be provided at least 1 sanitary fitting for every 18 girls or part thereof included in the enrolment and at least 1 sanitary fitting (at least one third of which must be water closets) for every 18 boys or part thereof included in the enrolment.

(4) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (5), there shall be provided in every school at least 1 wash basin with a suitable supply of warm water for each sanitary fitting specified in paragraph (3) as appropriate to the number of pupils for whom the school is designed.

(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*

11.—(1) Accommodation shall be available in every school at any time during school hours for the inspection and treatment of pupils by doctors, dentists and nurses.

(2) The accommodation for such inspection and treatment shall be well and suitably lighted and heated and shall be conveniently accessible to a water closet, and every room provided for such purposes shall include a wash basin with a supply of hot and cold water.

#### *Cloak and Storage Space*

12.—(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) Where fuel, including bottled gas, is used separate and suitably situated accommodation shall be provided for its storage.

### PART III

#### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

##### *Sites*

13.—(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 164, 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 94; and

(c) if the enrolment exceeds 94, 600 square yards increased by 175 square yards for every 35 pupils in excess of 94: provided that where the excess is not a multiple of 35 it shall be deemed for the purposes of this sub-paragraph to be the next lower multiple of 35.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (1), in every primary school where the enrolment exceeds 164 there shall be two paved spaces, and no such space shall be less than 400 square yards in area.

*Grass Areas*

14. 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 exceeding 24	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre
25 but not exceeding 94	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre
95 but not exceeding 164	$\frac{3}{4}$ acre
165 but not exceeding 339	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres
340 but not exceeding 549	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres
Exceeding 549	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres

*Teaching Accommodation*

15.—(1) Every primary school shall include teaching accommodation not less in total area than is shown in column (4) of the following table opposite the enrolment of the school, which teaching accommodation shall be the number of classrooms shown in column (2) plus an area of additional space not less than that shown in column (3).

(1) <i>Enrolment of the School</i>	(2) <i>Number of Classrooms</i>	(3) <i>Area of additional room or hall in square feet</i>	(4) <i>Total area of teaching accommodation in square feet</i>
Up to 24	1	200	600
25 but not exceeding 59	2	450	1,350
60 but not exceeding 94	3	500	2,100
95 but not exceeding 129	4	1,200	3,250
130 but not exceeding 164	5	1,200	4,010
165 but not exceeding 199	6	1,200	4,650
200 but not exceeding 234	7	1,500	5,560
235 but not exceeding 269	9	1,650	6,660
270 but not exceeding 304	10	1,650	7,180
305 but not exceeding 339	11	1,650	7,830
340 but not exceeding 374	12	1,750	8,380
375 but not exceeding 409	13	1,750	9,020
410 but not exceeding 444	14	1,750	9,570
445 but not exceeding 479	15	1,750	10,090

Provided that where the enrolment exceeds 479 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 479.

(2) The minimum area of a classroom in a primary school shall be:

(a) 400 square feet if the enrolment of the school does not exceed 59;

(b) 450 square feet if the enrolment of the school exceeds 59 but does not exceed 129;

(c) 520 square feet if the enrolment of the school exceeds 129:

Provided that in a school where the enrolment exceeds 234 one classroom shall be provided which may be less than 520 square feet but not less than 400 square feet in area.

(3) 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*

16.—(1) In every primary school where the enrolment exceeds 59 a staff room shall be provided.

(2) In every primary school where the enrolment exceeds 164 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 and other staff.

## PART IV

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS

*Sites*

17. 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 180 square yards for every complete 30 pupils of the enrolment.

*Playing Fields*

18.—(1) Every secondary school shall have appropriated to it a playing field or playing fields which shall be:—

(a) laid out in pitches of suitable dimensions; and

(b) not less in total area than the appropriate area in the following table:—

<i>Enrolment of the</i>		
<i>School</i>		<i>Acres</i>
Up to 270	. . . . .	5
271-475	. . . . .	6
476-640	. . . . .	8
641-800	. . . . .	10
Over 800	. . . . .	12

Where part of the playing field accommodation is provided with a hard porous surface suitable in size for the playing of hockey, association football or other appropriate games, that part may be deemed to be three times its actual area, so however, that at least one half of the appropriate area shall have a grass surface.

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

(i) 2 such courts where the enrolment comprises boys only or does not exceed 140.

(ii) 4 such courts where the enrolment exceeds 140 but does not exceed 560 and either includes girls or comprises girls only.

(iii) 5 such courts where the enrolment exceeds 560 and either includes girls or comprises girls only.

(b) The area of the hard courts may be in addition to that of the paved space or paved spaces provided for in Regulation 17.

*Teaching Accommodation*

19. The teaching accommodation of every secondary school shall comprise such ordinary classrooms and special subjects rooms as, having regard to the courses which it is intended to provide, the Ministry may approve and shall include—

- (a) for all schools with an enrolment of up to 540 one hall equipped for use as a gymnasium.
- (b) for all schools with an enrolment exceeding 540 but less than 900, two halls equipped for use as gymnasia.
- (c) for all schools with an enrolment of 900 or more, such gymnasium accommodation as the Ministry may approve in each case.

20. For all types of secondary school, other than grammar schools—

- (a) each 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)	(2)
<i>Enrolment of the School</i>	<i>Total area of teaching accommodation (including halls) in square feet</i>
270-320 . . . . .	14,200
400-475 . . . . .	19,600
540-640 . . . . .	25,600
675-800 . . . . .	31,800
810-960 . . . . .	35,600

- (b) where the enrolment of such a secondary school does not fall within one of the categories shown in column (1) above, the teaching accommodation appropriate for the school shall be such as the Ministry may approve.

21.—(1) The minimum area of an ordinary classroom in a secondary school shall be 450 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 excluding the stage, the area of which shall not be less than 600 square feet. There shall be provided in association with such a hall adequate and suitable ancillary accommodation including changing rooms and suitable facilities for ablution.

#### *Staff Accommodation*

22. 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 and other staff.

### PART V

#### NURSERY SCHOOLS AND CLASSES

##### *Sites*

23.—(1) The site of every nursery school shall comprise an area sufficient to accommodate in a 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*

24. 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*

25. 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*

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

#### *School Meals Facilities*

27. The school meals facilities provided in accordance with Regulation 29 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

28. 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

29. Without prejudice to the provisions of the Milk and Meals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1955(a), 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, provided also that in a secondary school dining shall not take place in a space used at other times as a gymnasium.

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(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1955, No. 52.

## PART VIII

## BOARDING ACCOMMODATION

30.—(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.

31. 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 otherwise suitable accommodation for the use of pupils for dining and recreational purposes.

*Staff Accommodation.*

32. All boarding accommodation shall include such residential accommodation, including sufficient dining, washing and sanitary accommodation, for the teaching and other staff as may be approved in each case.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 28th day of April, 1965, in the presence of

(L.S.)

*J. M. Benn,*  
Secretary.

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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 (Northern Ireland) 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.”