

1965, No. 93

[C]

EDUCATION

Nursery Schools

REGULATIONS, DATED 5TH MAY, 1965, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ACTS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1947 TO 1963, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

The Ministry of Education, hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry", in pursuance of the powers vested in it by Sections 84 and 112 of the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 1947(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Nursery Schools Amending Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965.

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

2. The existing Regulations hereby amended are the Nursery Schools Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1948(b).

3. For Regulation 11 of the existing Regulations there shall be substituted the following Regulations:—

"11.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) and paragraph (4), a nursery school shall be in operation during the school year for at least 200 school days.

(2) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 11A, the dates of school holidays shall be determined by the school authorities.

(3) A nursery school may at the discretion of the school authorities be closed for a number of optional holidays, not exceeding ten days in any school year, and such optional holidays may be counted as days when the school is in operation for the purposes of paragraph (1).

(4) In exceptional circumstances the Ministry may sanction a reduction in the number of days prescribed in paragraph (1).

(5) If in any school year a nursery school is not in operation for at least the number of days required by paragraph (1) of this Regulation, the Ministry may withhold, or make a deduction from, any grant payable in respect of the school under the Act.

11A.—(1) The dates of school holidays, other than optional holidays, shall in the case of voluntary nursery schools be subject to the approval of the local education authority for the area in which the school is situated.

(a) 1947. c. 3.

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1948, No. 97; 1953, No. 12; 1953, No. 90; 1962, No. 228; 1963, No. 47; 1964, No. 124.

(2) Not later than 31st March in any year, the superintendent teacher of every voluntary nursery school shall furnish to the local education authority, in such form as the authority may prescribe, a statement of the dates on which it is proposed that the school will be closed in the ensuing school year including (so far as is known at that time) the dates of optional holidays.

- (3) (a) The local education authority's approval to proposals for holiday closings as submitted in accordance with paragraph (2) shall not be unreasonably withheld and the authority shall take into account any representations made by or on behalf of the school authorities of a voluntary nursery school.
- (b) In the event of the authority being unwilling to approve the proposals for closings submitted in accordance with paragraph (2) (or any amending proposals submitted after consultation between the authority and the school authorities) the authority shall determine the date of such closings and shall notify the school authorities of its decision.
- (c) If the school authorities of a voluntary nursery school are unwilling to accept the decision of the local education authority about the dates of closing they may, within fourteen days of receipt of the notification referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph, refer the matter to the Ministry for final determination.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 5th day of May, 1965.

(L.S.)

J. M. Benn,

Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 5th day of May, 1965.

(L.S.)

R. H. Kidd,

Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Regulations continue the provision in the principal Regulations that nursery schools must be in operation for at least 200 school days in each school year but permit schools to take a maximum of ten optional holidays within those 200 days.