

1973. No. 401

[C]

**EDUCATION****Nursery Classes in Primary Schools**

REGULATIONS, DATED 28TH SEPTEMBER 1973, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1972, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

The Ministry of Education (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") on behalf of the Secretary of State and in pursuance of the powers vested in it by Articles 105 and 125 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Order") and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Introductory*

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Nursery Classes in Primary Schools Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973.

(2) These Regulations shall have effect from 1st October 1973.

2. The Nursery Classes in Primary Schools Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1956(b) are hereby revoked.

3. In these Regulations—

"approved" means approved by the Ministry;

"General Regulations" means the Regulations in force relating to the conduct of primary schools other than those managed and conducted as nursery schools;

"maintained school" means a voluntary school for which a committee has been appointed under Part I of Schedule 5 to the Order;

"nursery class" means a class of pupils in a primary school which has been approved for the purposes of these Regulations;

"nursery school" means a primary school used mainly for the purpose of providing education for children who have attained the age of two years but have not attained the age of five years;

"recognised" means recognised by the Ministry;

"Salaries Regulations" means the Regulations in force relating to the salaries of teachers in primary schools;

"teacher" does not include "nursery assistant";

"voluntary school" means a grant-aided primary school other than a controlled school.

4.—(1) The General Regulations and the Salaries Regulations shall apply to nursery classes in primary schools, subject to the modifications contained in these Regulations.

(2) These Regulations shall not apply to nursery schools.

(a) S.I. 1972, No. 1263 (N.I. 12).

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1956, No. 69; 1969, No. 95.

*General conditions*

5.—(1) The establishment of a nursery class in a primary school shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry.

(2) Each nursery class shall be conducted on approved lines similar to those of a recognised nursery school.

6.—(1) Training and activities suitable to the ages of the pupils shall be provided in each nursery class, and a time-table shall be exhibited showing how the day will be spent.

(2) In each nursery class the school day shall last for not less than three hours.

7. A nursery class shall consist of pupils who have attained the age of three years but have not attained the age of five years.

*Staffing*

8. The teaching and nursery assistant staff of each nursery class in a school shall be such as the Ministry may from time to time approve.

9. Pupils enrolled in a nursery class shall not be counted in the calculation of the average daily enrolment of the school for the purpose of the staffing of the school under the General Regulations.

10. The salary payable to a nursery assistant shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry.

11.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2) a person shall not be appointed as an assistant teacher in charge of a nursery class unless she holds qualifications accepted for recognition as a qualified teacher in a nursery school.

(2) The employment of a person as an assistant teacher who is not eligible for appointment under paragraph (1) shall be temporary and shall be subject to such other conditions as the Ministry may approve.

*Grants*

12. The Ministry may pay in respect of a nursery class in a voluntary school which is not a maintained school grant equal to 65 per cent. of the approved expenditure incurred by the school authorities on the employment of nursery assistants.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 28th day of September 1973, in the presence of

(L.S.)

*T. R. Meharg,*  
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland on behalf of the Secretary of State hereby approves the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 28th day of September 1973, in the presence of

(L.S.)

*W. Ivan Woods,*  
Deputy Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations provide for the conduct of nursery classes in primary schools.