



Education (Scotland) Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 44

PART II

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARENTS AND FUNCTIONS OF EDUCATION AUTHORITIES IN RELATION TO INDIVIDUAL PUPILS

Health and cleanliness of pupils

58 Power to ensure cleanliness

- (1) An education authority may, by directions in writing issued with respect to all schools, junior colleges and other educational establishments under their management or with respect to any of such schools, colleges or establishments named in the directions, authorise a medical officer of the appropriate Health Board to cause examinations to be made of the bodies and clothing of all or any of the pupils in attendance at such schools and young persons in attendance at such colleges or establishments whenever in his opinion such examinations are necessary in the interests of cleanliness.
- (2) Any such examination as aforesaid shall be made by such medical officer or by a person authorised in writing by him to make such examinations (in this section referred to as an "authorised person"), and, if the body or clothing of any pupil or young person is found upon such an examination to be infested with vermin or in a foul condition, the authority may serve upon the parent of such pupil or upon the young person a notice requiring the parent to cause the body and clothing of the pupil to be cleansed or the young person to cause himself and his clothing to be cleansed as the case may be.
- (3) A notice served under subsection (2) above shall inform the person upon whom it is served that, unless within the period limited by the notice, not being more than twenty-four hours after the service thereof, the body and clothing of the pupil or young person to whom the notice relates are cleansed to the satisfaction of the medical officer or an authorised person as may be specified in the notice, the cleansing thereof will be carried out under arrangements made by the education authority; and, if at the expiration of that period the medical officer or an authorised person is not satisfied that the body and clothing of the pupil or young person have been properly cleansed,

the medical officer or an authorised person may issue an order directing that the body and clothing of the pupil or young person be cleansed under such arrangements. The order shall be sufficient to authorise any officer of the authority to cause the body and clothing of the pupil or young person named in the order to be cleansed in accordance with such arrangements, and for that purpose to convey him to the premises where the cleansing is to be carried out and to detain him there until such time as the cleansing has been completed.

- (4) It shall be the duty of the education authority to make arrangements for securing that any cleansing under this section, whether at the request of a parent or young person or in pursuance of an order issued under this section, may be carried out in suitable premises by suitable persons and with suitable appliances.
- (5) If after the cleansing of the body or clothing of any pupil or young person has been carried out under this section his body or clothing is again found to be infested with vermin or in a foul condition at any time while he is in attendance at such school, junior college or other educational establishment, and it is proved that the condition of his body or clothing is due to neglect on the part of his parent, or, in the case of a young person in attendance at a junior college or other educational establishment, to his own neglect, the parent or the young person, as the case may be, shall be liable on conviction by a court of summary jurisdiction in the case of a first conviction to a fine not exceeding £1, in the case of a second conviction to a fine not exceeding £5, and in the case of a third or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding £10 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month or to both such fine and such imprisonment.
- (6) Where such a medical officer or authorised person has reason to believe that the body or clothing of any pupil or young person in attendance at such school, junior college or other educational establishment is infested with vermin or in a foul condition, but action for the examination or cleansing thereof cannot immediately be taken, he shall so advise the authority who may, if they consider it necessary so to do in the interests either of the pupil or young person or of other children or young persons in attendance at the school, college or other educational establishment, direct that the pupil or young person be excluded from the school, college or other educational establishment until such action has been taken; and such a direction shall be a defence to any proceedings under this Act in respect of the failure of the pupil or young person to attend school or to comply with the requirements of an attendance notice, as the case may be, on any day on which he is excluded in pursuance of the direction, unless it is proved that the issue of the direction was necessitated by the wilful default of the parent or of the young person.
- (7) No female shall be examined or cleansed under the powers conferred by this section except by a registered medical practitioner or by a woman authorised for that purpose by a medical officer of a Health Board.
- (8) In this section " the appropriate Health Board " has the same meaning as in section 57 of this Act.