

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*



# Education Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 56

### PART V

#### THE CURRICULUM

#### CHAPTER IV

##### MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

##### *Courses leading to external qualifications*

**F1 400** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 400 repealed (1.9.2001) by 1997 c. 44, ss. 57(1)(4), **Sch.8**; S.I. 2001/1215, **art. 2**

**F2 401** .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F2** S. 401 repealed (1.9.2001) by 1997 c. 44, ss. 57(1)(4), 58(3), **Sch.8**; S.I. 2001/1215, **art. 2**

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

### *Obligation to enter pupils for public examinations*

#### **402 Obligation to enter pupils for public examinations.**

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the governing body of a maintained school shall secure that each registered pupil at the school is entered, at such time as they consider appropriate, for each prescribed public examination for which he is being prepared at the school at the time in question in each syllabus for that examination for which he is being so prepared.
- (2) The governing body are not required to secure that a pupil is entered for any examination, or for an examination in any syllabus for that examination, if either—
  - (a) they consider that there are educational reasons in the case of that particular pupil for not entering him for that examination or (as the case may be) for not entering him for that examination in that syllabus, or
  - (b) the parent of the pupil requests in writing that the pupil should not be entered for that examination or (as the case may be) for that examination in that syllabus;
 but this subsection does not apply to an examination which is part of the assessment arrangements for the fourth key stage and applies in the case of that pupil.
- (3) The governing body are not required to secure that a pupil is entered for any examination in any syllabus for that examination if they have secured his entry for another prescribed public examination in a corresponding syllabus.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3) a syllabus for a prescribed public examination shall be regarded as corresponding to a syllabus for another prescribed public examination if the same course of study is provided at the school in preparation for both syllabuses.
- (5) As soon as practicable after determining whether or not to secure the entry of any pupil for a prescribed public examination in any syllabus for which he is being prepared at the school, the governing body shall notify the pupil's parent in writing of their determination in relation to each such syllabus.
- (6) In this section—
  - (a) “maintained school” includes [<sup>F3</sup>a community or foundation special school] established in a hospital;
  - [<sup>F4</sup>(aa) “assessment arrangements” and “fourth key stage”—
    - (i) in relation to a school maintained by a local education authority in England, have the same meaning as in Part 6 of the Education Act 2002 (the curriculum in England), and
    - (ii) in relation to a school maintained by a local education authority in Wales, have the same meaning as in Part 7 of that Act (the curriculum in Wales); and]
  - (b) references to a prescribed public examination shall be construed in accordance with section 462.

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F3** Words in s. 402(6) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para.101** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- F4** S. 402(6)(aa) substituted (1.10.2002 for E. for certain purposes, 19.12.2002 for W. and otherwise prosp.) for word at the end of s. 402(6)(a) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\)](#), ss. 215(1), 216(4), [Sch. 21 para. 45](#) (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); [S.I. 2002/2439](#), [art. 3](#); [S.I. 2002/3185](#), [art. 4](#), [Sch. Pt. 1](#)

### *Sex education*

#### **403 Sex education: manner of provision.**

- (1) The <sup>F5</sup> . . . , governing body and head teacher shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupils at a maintained school, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- [<sup>F6</sup>(1A) The Secretary of State must issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils at maintained schools—
- (a) they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children, and
  - (b) they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
- (1B) In discharging their functions under subsection (1) governing bodies and head teachers must have regard to the Secretary of State’s guidance.
- (1C) Guidance under subsection (1A) must include guidance about any material which may be produced by NHS bodies for use for the purposes of sex education in schools.
- (1D) The Secretary of State may at any time revise his guidance under subsection (1A).]
- (2) In [<sup>F7</sup>this section]“maintained school” includes [<sup>F8</sup>a community or foundation special school] established in a hospital [<sup>F9</sup>and “NHS body” has the same meaning as in section 22 of the National Health Service Act 1977.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F5** Words in s. 403(1) repealed (1.11.2000 (E.) 1.9.2001 (W.)) by [2000 c. 21](#), ss. 148(3), 153, [Sch. 11](#) (with s. 150); [S.I. 2000/2559](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#); [S.I. 2001/1274](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#)
- F6** S. 403(1A)-(1D) inserted (1.11.2000 (E.) 1.9.2001 (W.)) by [2000 c. 21](#), s. 148(4) (with s. 150); [S.I. 2000/2559](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#); [S.I. 2001/1274](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#)
- F7** Words in s. 403(2) substituted (1.11.2000 (E.) 1.9.2001 (W.)) by [2000 c. 21](#), s. 148(5)(a) (with s. 150); [S.I. 2000/2559](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#); [S.I. 2001/1274](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#)
- F8** Words in s. 403(2) substituted (1.9.1999) by [1998 c. 31](#), s. 140(1), [Sch. 30 para. 102](#) (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); [S.I. 1999/2323](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1](#)
- F9** Words in s. 403(2) inserted (1.11.2000 (E.) 1.9.2001 (W.)) by [2000 c. 21](#), s. 148(5)(b) (with s. 150); [S.I. 2000/2559](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#); [S.I. 2001/1274](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. Pt. II](#)

#### **404 Sex education: statements of policy.**

- (1) The governing body of a maintained school shall—
- (a) make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the provision of sex education, and

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) make copies of the statement available for inspection (at all reasonable times) by parents of registered pupils at the school and provide a copy of the statement free of charge to any such parent who asks for one.

[<sup>F10</sup>(1A) A statement under subsection (1) must include a statement of the effect of section 405.]

- (2) In subsection (1) “maintained school” includes, in relation to pupils who are provided with secondary education, [<sup>F11</sup>a community or foundation special school] established in a hospital.

<sup>F12</sup>(3) .....

#### Textual Amendments

- F10** S. 404(1A) inserted (1.11.2000 (E.), 1.9.2001 (W.)) by 2000 c. 21, ss. 148(6), 154 (with s. 150); S.I. 2000/2559, art. 2(2), **Sch. Pt. II**; S.I. 2001/1274 art. 2(2) Sch. Pt. II
- F11** Words in s. 404(2) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 103(a)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F12** S. 404(3) repealed (1.10.1998) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 103(b), **Sch. 31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1998/2212, art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

#### 405 Exemption from sex education.

If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

#### *Politics*

#### 406 Political indoctrination.

- (1) The local education authority, governing body and head teacher shall forbid—
- (a) the pursuit of partisan political activities by any of those registered pupils at a maintained school who are junior pupils, and
  - (b) the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school.
- (2) In the case of activities which take place otherwise than on the school premises, subsection (1)(a) applies only where arrangements for junior pupils to take part in the activities are made by—
- (a) any member of the school’s staff (in his capacity as such), or
  - (b) anyone acting on behalf of the school or of a member of the school’s staff (in his capacity as such).
- (3) In this section “maintained school” includes [<sup>F13</sup>a community or foundation special school] established in a hospital.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Textual Amendments

**F13** Words in s. 406(3) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para.104** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

### 407 Duty to secure balanced treatment of political issues.

- (1) The local education authority, governing body and head teacher shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils while they are—
  - (a) in attendance at a maintained school, or
  - (b) taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised for registered pupils at the school by or on behalf of the school,they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.
- (2) In this section “maintained school” includes [<sup>F14</sup>a community or foundation special school] established in a hospital.

#### Textual Amendments

**F14** Words in s. 407(2) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para.105** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

### Information

### 408 Provision of information.

- (1) Regulations may require, in relation to every maintained school, the local education authority, the governing body or the head teacher to make available either generally or to prescribed persons, in such form and manner and at such times as may be prescribed—
  - (a) such information (including information as to the matters mentioned in subsection (2)) relevant for the purposes of any of the relevant provisions of this Part [<sup>F15</sup>or Part V of the Education Act 1997][<sup>F16</sup>or section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000][<sup>F17</sup>or the relevant provisions of the Education Act 2002], and
  - <sup>F18</sup>[(b) such copies of the documents mentioned in subsection (3), as may be prescribed.]
- (2) The matters referred to in subsection (1)(a) are—
  - (a) the curriculum for maintained schools,
  - (b) the educational provision made by the school for pupils at the school and any syllabuses to be followed by those pupils,
  - (c) the educational achievements of pupils at the school (including the results of any assessments of those pupils, whether under this Part or otherwise, for the purpose of ascertaining those achievements), and
  - (d) the educational achievements of [<sup>F19</sup>such classes or descriptions of pupils] as may be prescribed (including results of the kind mentioned in paragraph (c)). [<sup>F20</sup>, and

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- <sup>F20</sup>(e) arrangements relating to external qualifications (within the meaning given by section 96(5) of the Learning and Skills Act 2000) and to courses leading to such qualifications.]
- <sup>F21</sup>[(3) The documents referred to in subsection (1)(b) are—
- (a) any written statement made by the local education authority under section 370,
  - (b) any written statement made by the governing body in pursuance of provision made under section 371,
  - (c) any written statement made by the governing body of their policy as to the curriculum for the school, and
  - (d) any report prepared by the governing body under section 161 or paragraph 7 of Schedule 23 (governors' annual reports).]
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1) the relevant provisions of this Part are—
- (a) <sup>F22</sup> .....
  - <sup>F23</sup>[(b) sections 375(3) and 384;]
  - [(c) sections 385 and 388 and, so far as relating to county schools, sections 386 and 387;]
  - (d) sections [<sup>F24</sup>390] to 392;
  - (e) sections 394 to 396;
  - (f) sections 398 <sup>F25</sup> . . . and 405; and
  - (g) section 409.
- <sup>F26</sup>(4A) For the purposes of subsection (1) the relevant provisions of the Education Act 2002 are—
- (a) Part 6 (the curriculum in England), and
  - (b) sections 97 to 117 (the curriculum in Wales).]
- (5) Before making any regulations under this section, the Secretary of State shall consult any persons with whom consultation appears to him to be desirable.
- (6) Regulations under this section shall not require information as to the results of an individual pupil's assessment (whether under [<sup>F27</sup>Part 6 or 7 of the Education Act 2002] or otherwise) to be made available to any persons other than—
- (a) the parents of the pupil concerned,
  - (b) the pupil concerned,
  - (c) in the case of a pupil who has transferred to a different school, the head teacher of that school,
  - (d) the governing body of the school, or
  - (e) the local education authority;
- and shall not require such information to be made available to the governing body, the head teacher or the local education authority except where relevant for the purposes of the performance of any of their functions.
- (7) Regulations under this section may authorise local education authorities, governing bodies and head teachers to make a charge (not exceeding the cost of supply) for any documents supplied by them in pursuance of the regulations.
- (8) In relation to any maintained school, the local education authority and the governing body shall exercise their functions with a view to securing that the head teacher complies with any regulations made under this section.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

[<sup>F28</sup>(9) In this section “maintained school” includes a maintained nursery school.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F15** Words in s. 408(1)(a) inserted (1.10.1997) by 1997 c. 44, s. 57(1), **Sch. 7 para. 30(a)**; S.I. 1997/1468, art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. III**
- F16** Words in s. 408(1)(a) inserted (28.7.2000 for certain purposes otherwise 1.9.2001) by 2000 c. 21, ss. 149, 154, **Sch. 9 para. 57(2)** (with s.150); S.I. 2001/654, art. 2(3), **Sch. Pt. III** (with art. 3); S.I. 2001/1274, art. 2(2), **Sch. Pt. II**
- F17** Words in s. 408(1)(a) inserted (1.10.2002 for E., 19.12.2002 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 215(1), 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 46(2)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**; Sch. Pt. I
- F18** S. 408(1)(b) repealed (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 106(a), **Sch. 31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F19** Words in s. 408(2)(d) substituted (1.10.1998) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 106(b)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1998/2212, art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- F20** S. 408(2)(e) and preceding “, and” inserted (28.7.2000 for certain purposes, otherwise 1.9.2001) by 2000 c. 21, ss. 149, 154, **Sch. 9 para. 57(3)** (with 150); S.I. 2001/654, art. 2(3), **Sch. Pt. III** (with art. 3); S.I. 2001/1274, art. 2(2), **Sch. Pt. II**
- F21** S. 408(3) repealed (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 106(c), **Sch. 31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F22** S. 408(4)(a) repealed (1.10.2002 for E., 19.12.2002 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 215, 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 46(3)**, **Sch. 22 Pt. 3** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F23** S. 408(4)(b)(c) repealed (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 106(d)(i), **Sch. 31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F24** Word in s. 408(4)(d) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 106(d)(ii)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6))
- F25** Words in s. 408(4)(f) repealed (1.9.2001) by 1997 c. 44, ss. 57(1)(4), Sch. 7 para. 30(b), **Sch. 8**; S.I. 2001/1215, **art. 2**
- F26** S. 408(4A) inserted (1.10.2002 for E. for certain purposes, 19.12.2002 for W. and otherwise prosp.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 215, 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 46(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F27** Words in s. 408(6) substituted (1.10.2002 for E. for certain purposes, 19.12.2002 for W. and otherwise prosp.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 215, 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 46(5)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F28** S. 408(9) inserted (1.9.2003 for E., 1.8.2008 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), s. 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 46(6)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2003/1667, art. 4; S.I. 2008/1728, art. 3, Sch. Pt. 2

#### Complaints and enforcement

#### 409 [<sup>F29</sup>Complaints and enforcement: maintained schools. ]

- (1) A local education authority shall, <sup>F30</sup> . . . after consultation with governing bodies [<sup>F31</sup>of foundation and voluntary aided schools,] make arrangements for the consideration and disposal of any complaint to which subsection (2) applies.
- (2) This subsection applies to any complaint which is to the effect that the authority, or the governing body of [<sup>F32</sup>any community, foundation or voluntary school maintained by the authority [<sup>F33</sup>, any maintained nursery school so maintained] or any community or foundation special school] so maintained which is not established in a hospital—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.*

*Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) have acted or are proposing to act unreasonably in relation to the exercise of a power conferred on them by or under a relevant enactment, or
  - (b) have acted or are proposing to act unreasonably in relation to the performance of, or have failed to discharge, a duty imposed on them by or under a relevant enactment.
- (3) In subsection (2) “relevant enactment” means—
- (a) any provision which by virtue of section 408(4) is a relevant provision of this Part for the purposes of section 408(1),
  - [<sup>F34</sup>(aa) any provision which by virtue of section 408(4A) is a relevant provision of the Education Act 2002 for the purposes of section 408(1),] and
  - (b) any other enactment (whether contained in this Part or otherwise) so far as relating to the curriculum for, or religious worship in, maintained schools  
<sup>F35</sup> . . .
- (4) The Secretary of State shall not entertain under section 496 (power to prevent unreasonable exercise of functions) or 497 (powers where a local education authority or governing body fail to discharge their duties) any complaint to which subsection (2) applies, unless a complaint concerning the same matter has been made and disposed of in accordance with arrangements made under subsection (1).

#### Textual Amendments

- F29** S. 409 sidenote substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 107(d)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F30** Words in s. 409(1) repealed (1.10.2002 for E., 19.12.2002 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 215, 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 47(2)**, **Sch. 22 Pt. 3** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F31** Words in s. 409(1) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 107(a)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F32** Words in s. 409(2) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 107(b)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F33** Words in s. 409(2) inserted (1.9.2003 for E.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), s. 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 47(3)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2003/1667, art. 4
- F34** S. 409(3)(aa) inserted (1.10.2002 for E., 19.12.2002 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 215(1), 216(4), **Sch. 21 para. 47(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F35** Words in s. 409(3)(b) repealed (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 107(c), **Sch. 31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

#### *Nursery education*

#### **410 Application of Part V in relation to nursery education.**

[<sup>F36</sup>Nothing in this Part applies in relation to a nursery school or in relation to a nursery class in a primary school.]



---

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.

**Changes to legislation:** Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

---

---

### Textual Amendments

**F36** S. 410 repealed (1.10.2002 for E., otherwise prosp.) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\)](#), ss. 205, 215(2), 216(4), [Sch. 22 Pt. 3](#) (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, [art. 3](#)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/09/2003.

**Changes to legislation:**

Education Act 1996, Chapter IV is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 June 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.