



Education Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 56

PART X

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

CHAPTER VI

GENERAL

Construction

579 General interpretation.

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- ^{F1}
- [^{F2}“assist”, in relation to any school, institution or university, shall be construed in accordance with subsections (5) to (7) below;]
- “boarder” includes a pupil who boards during the week but not at weekends;
- “child” means a person who is not over compulsory school age;
- “clothing” includes footwear;
- ^{F1}
- “financial year” means a period of twelve months ending with 31st March;
- “functions” includes powers and duties;
- ^{F1}
- “head teacher” includes acting head teacher;
- “higher education” means education provided by means of a course of any description mentioned in Schedule 6 to the Education Reform Act 1988;
- “land” includes buildings and other structures, land covered with water, and any interest in land;
- “liability” includes obligation;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2002. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Section 579 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 July 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)

“local authority” means a county council, a county borough council, a district council, a London borough council or the Common Council of the City of London;

^{F1}

“local government elector” has the meaning given by section 270(1) of the ^{M1}Local Government Act 1972;

“medical officer”, in relation to a local education authority, means a registered medical practitioner who is employed or engaged (whether regularly or for the purposes of any particular case) by the authority or whose services are made available to the authority by the Secretary of State;

“modifications” includes additions, alterations and omissions and “modify” shall be construed accordingly;

[^{F3}“the National Curriculum”(without more) means—

- (a) in relation to England, the National Curriculum for England, and
- (b) in relation to Wales, the National Curriculum for Wales;]

“premises”, in relation to a school, includes any detached playing fields but, except where otherwise expressly provided, does not include a teacher’s dwelling-house;

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations;

“proprietor”, in relation to a school, means the person or body of persons responsible for the management of the school (so that, in relation to [^{F4}a community, foundation or voluntary or community or foundation special school,] it means the governing body);

^{F1}

“regulations” means regulations made by the Secretary of State;

^{F1}

[^{F5}“sex education” includes education about—

- (a) Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and
- (b) any other sexually transmitted disease;]

“school buildings”, in relation to a school, means any building or part of a building forming part of the school premises, other than a building or part required only—

- (a) as a caretaker’s dwelling,
- (b) for use in connection with playing fields,
- (c) to afford facilities for enabling the Secretary of State facilities to carry out his functions under section 5(1) or (1A) of, and Schedule 1 to, the ^{M2}National Health Service Act 1977 (which relate to the provision of medical and dental services for pupils), or
- (d) to afford facilities for providing milk, meals or other refreshment for pupils in attendance at the school;

“school day”, in relation to a school, means any day on which at that school there is a school session;

[^{F6}“school year”, in relation to a school, means the period beginning with the first school term to begin after July and ending with the beginning of the first such term to begin after the following July;]

[^{F7}“trust deed” includes any instrument (other than an instrument of government) regulating the constitution of the school’s governing body or the maintenance, management or conduct of the school;]

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“young person” means a person over compulsory school age but under the age of 18.

(2) References in this Act to an interest in land include any easement, right or charge in, to or over land.

^{F8}(3)

(4) For the purposes of this Act a person shall be treated as belonging, or as not belonging, to the area of a particular local education authority in accordance with regulations; and any question under the regulations shall, in the case of a dispute, be determined by the Secretary of State.

(5) For the purposes of this Act a school shall be regarded as “assisted” by a local education authority who do not maintain it if the authority make to its proprietor any grant in respect of the school or any payment in consideration of the provision of educational facilities there.

(6) Subject to subsection (7), an institution other than a school shall be regarded for the purposes of this Act as “assisted” by a local education authority if the authority make to the persons responsible for its maintenance any grant in respect of the institution or any payment in consideration of the provision of educational facilities there.

(7) Neither—

(a) a university, nor

(b) any institution within the further education sector or within the higher education sector other than a university,

shall be regarded for the purposes of this Act as “assisted” by a local education authority by virtue of the making by the authority to the persons responsible for the maintenance of the university or institution of any grant or payment such as is mentioned in subsection (6).

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 579(1): definitions of "the appropriate further education funding council", "exclude", "governing body" (and "governors"), "the local education authority", "reception class" and "relevant age group" repealed (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 183(a)(ii), **Sch. 31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F2** Definition in s. 579(1) inserted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 183(a)(i)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F3** S. 579(1): definition of "the National Curriculum" 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. 57(b)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F4** Words in s. 579(1) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 183(a)(iii)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F5** S. 579(1): definition of "sex education" 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. 57(c)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, **art. 3**; S.I. 2002/3185, **art. 4**, Sch. Pt. I
- F6** Definition in s. 579(1) inserted (14.6.1997) by 1997 c. 44, s. 57(1), **Sch. 7 para. 43**; S.I. 1997/1468, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- F7** Definition in s. 579(1) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 183(a)(iv)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F8** S. 579(3) repealed (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1)(3), Sch. 30 para. 183(b), **Sch.31** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

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Marginal Citations

M1 1972 c. 70.

M2 1977 c. 49.

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