



School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 31

PART II

NEW FRAMEWORK FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

CHAPTER VI

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP

Religious education

69 Duty to secure due provision of religious education

- (1) Subject to section 71, in relation to any community, foundation or voluntary school—
 - (a) the local education authority and the governing body shall exercise their functions with a view to securing, and
 - (b) the head teacher shall secure,that religious education is given in accordance with the provision for such education included in the school's basic curriculum by virtue of section 352(1)(a) of the Education Act 1996.
- (2) Schedule 19 has effect for determining the provision for religious education which is required by section 352(1)(a) of that Act to be included in the basic curriculum of schools within each of the following categories, namely—
 - (a) community schools and foundation and voluntary schools which do not have a religious character,
 - (b) foundation and voluntary controlled schools which have a religious character, and
 - (c) voluntary aided schools which have a religious character.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (3) For the purposes of this Part a foundation or voluntary school has a religious character if it is designated as a school having such a character by an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (4) An order under subsection (3) shall state, in relation to each school designated by the order, the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets religious education is, or may be, required to be provided at the school in accordance with Schedule 19 (or, as the case may be, each such religion or religious denomination).
- (5) The procedure to be followed in connection with—
 - (a) the designation of a school in an order under subsection (3), and
 - (b) the inclusion in such an order, in relation to a school, of the statement required by subsection (4),
 shall be specified in regulations.

Religious worship

70 Requirements relating to collective worship

- (1) Subject to section 71, each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.
- (2) Subject to section 71, in relation to any community, foundation or voluntary school—
 - (a) the local education authority and the governing body shall exercise their functions with a view to securing, and
 - (b) the head teacher shall secure,
 that subsection (1) is complied with.
- (3) Schedule 20 makes further provision with respect to the collective worship required by this section, including provision relating to—
 - (a) the arrangements which are to be made in connection with such worship, and
 - (b) the nature of such worship.

Exceptions and special arrangements etc.

71 Exceptions and special arrangements; provision for special schools

- (1) If the parent of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused—
 - (a) from receiving religious education given in the school in accordance with the school's basic curriculum,
 - (b) from attendance at religious worship in the school, or
 - (c) both from receiving such education and from such attendance,
 the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
 - (a) the reference to religious education given in accordance with the school's basic curriculum is to such education given in accordance with the provision included in the school's basic curriculum by virtue of section 352(1)(a) of the Education Act 1996, and

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- (b) the reference to religious worship in the school includes religious worship which by virtue of paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 20 takes place otherwise than on the school premises.
- (3) Where in accordance with subsection (1) a pupil has been wholly or partly excused from receiving religious education or from attendance at religious worship and the local education authority are satisfied—
- (a) that the parent of the pupil desires him to receive religious education of a kind which is not provided in the school during the periods of time during which he is so excused,
 - (b) that the pupil cannot with reasonable convenience be sent to another community, foundation or voluntary school where religious education of the kind desired by the parent is provided, and
 - (c) that arrangements have been made for him to receive religious education of that kind during school hours elsewhere,
- the pupil may be withdrawn from the school during such periods of time as are reasonably necessary for the purpose of enabling him to receive religious education in accordance with the arrangements.
- (4) A pupil may not be withdrawn from school under subsection (3) unless the local education authority are satisfied that the arrangements there mentioned are such as will not interfere with the attendance of the pupil at school on any day except at the beginning or end of a school session (or, if there is only one, the school session) on that day.
- (5) Where the parent of a pupil who is a boarder at a community, foundation or voluntary school requests that the pupil be permitted—
- (a) to receive religious education in accordance with the tenets of a particular religion or religious denomination outside school hours, or
 - (b) to attend worship in accordance with such tenets on Sundays or other days exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his parent belongs,
- the governing body shall make arrangements for giving the pupil reasonable opportunities for doing so.
- (6) Arrangements under subsection (5) may provide for making facilities for such education or worship available on the school premises, but any expenditure entailed by the arrangements shall not be met from the school's budget share or otherwise by the local education authority.
- (7) Regulations shall make provision for securing that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending a community or foundation special school—
- (a) receives religious education and attends religious worship, or
 - (b) is withdrawn from receiving such education or from attendance at such worship in accordance with the wishes of his parent.