

Subject:

EDUCATION (SCHOOL INFORMATION AND PROSPECTUSES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NI) 1997

Circular Number:

1997/18

Date of Issue:

26 August 1997

Target Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided Secondary (including Grammar) schools;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.

Summary of Contents:

This Circular explains the requirements of the Education (School Information and Prospectuses) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997

Enquiries:

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Governor Awareness:

Essential

Status of Contents:

Advice
Information for schools

Related Documents:

SR1993 No.370, SR1994 No.315,
SR1994 No.361, SR1997 No.341

Superseded Documents:

None

Expiry Date:

Not applicable

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1. The Department has made Regulations about the method of recording, in school prospectuses and Boards of Governors' Annual Reports, the performance of pupils in key stage 4 in GNVQ Part 1.

Effective date

2. The Education (School Information and Prospectuses) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (the 1997 regulations) will come into effect on 22 August 1997. They will apply to information to be included in prospectuses published in the 1997/98 school year, and in Annual Reports relating to the 1996/97 school year (ie Annual Reports published in the 1997/98 school year) and to information to be published in each school year thereafter.

Consultation

3. Under existing regulations schools are already required to publish information, both in aggregate and on a subject basis, about the proportion of Year 12 pupils entered for and achieving GCSEs. In those schools which are participating in the piloting of GNVQ Part 1, however, some of the pupils are taking that qualification instead of, or in addition to, GCSE.

4. Having consulted schools and other interested bodies, the Department has concluded that the best way to include information about performance in GNVQ Part 1 is to aggregate it with GCSE performance, on the following basis:

- GNVQ Part 1 at Foundation level is equivalent to 2 GCSEs at grades D to G; and
- GNVQ Part 1 at Intermediate level is equivalent to 2 GCSEs at grades A* to C.

Effect of 1997 Regulations

5. The practical effect of this will be that **where pupils have been entered for GNVQ Part 1** examinations, a school must aggregate pupils' GCSE and GNVQ achievements, on the basis set out in paragraph 4, when preparing the summary data on pupil performance for the prospectus and the Annual Report. Schools will be required to show the proportions of Year 12 pupils -

- entered for 5 or more GCSE subjects or GNVQ Part 1 equivalent;
- entered for 1 to 4 GCSE subjects or GNVQ Part 1 equivalent;
- achieving:
 - grades A* to C in 5 or more GCSEs or GNVQ Part 1 equivalent;
 - grades A* to C in 1 to 4 GCSEs or GNVQ Part 1 equivalent;
 - grades A* to G in 5 or more GCSEs or GNVQ Part 1 equivalent;
 - grades A* to G in 1 to 4 GCSEs or GNVQ Part 1 equivalent;
 - no grades A* to G in GCSE and no GNVQ Part 1 qualifications.

6. Schools are already required to publish an alphabetical list of the GCSE subjects in which pupils were entered and for each subject to show the number of pupils entered and the proportion of pupils entered who achieved each grade or did not achieve any grade. The 1997 Regulations contain an additional requirement to require schools which entered pupils for GNVQ Part 1 to publish an alphabetical list of the vocational areas in which pupils were entered and to show:

- the number of pupils entered for each vocational area; and
- the proportion of pupils entered for each vocational area who achieved the full qualification.

Amendments to current Regulations

7. The Education (School Information and Prospectuses) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, amend the Education (School Information and Prospectuses) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 (“the 1993 Regulations”), as amended by the Education (School Information and Prospectuses) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 and the Education (School Information and Prospectuses) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996. A copy of the 1997 Regulations can be obtained from The Stationery Office, 16 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GD, price £1.10. A copy of the Regulations is enclosed with this Circular for inclusion in your compendium.

School Performance Tables

8. Information about pupils’ performance in GNVQ Part 1 will also be incorporated with GCSE information in the school performance tables. A separate document about the arrangements for preparing the information for the school performance tables will be issued to schools.

9. The guidance in this Circular does not constitute an authoritative legal interpretation: that is exclusively a matter for the Courts.

L ASHE
Assessment and Examinations Branch