

**Subject:****ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN KEY  
STAGE 1 & 2****Circular Number:****1997/25****Date of Issue:**

24 September 1997

**Target Audience:**

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided Primary schools;
- Preparatory Departments of Grammar Schools;
- Special Schools with Primary Age Pupils;
- 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 (Assessment Arrangements for Key Stages 1 and 2) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997

**Enquiries:**

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**Governor Awareness:**

Essential

**Status of Contents:**Advice  
Information for schools**Related Documents:**

SR 1996 No.363, SR 1997 No.399

**Superseded Documents:**

None

**Expiry Date:**

Not applicable

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1. The Department has made an Order, the Education (Assessment Arrangements for Key Stages 1 and 2) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 (SR 1997 No 399) which will come into operation on 30 September. Copies of the Order are available from The Stationery Office, 16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD, price 65p. A copy for inclusion in the Compendium of Information is enclosed.

2. The Order amends the Education (Assessment Arrangements for Key Stages 1 and 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 1996 (SR 1996 No 363), to take account of the publication of a revised statutory document setting out the detailed arrangements for assessment.

3. The arrangements for assessment of pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 are largely unchanged from those which applied in the 1996/97 school year; the differences are minor and are confined to changes to the dates by which certain aspects of the arrangements must be completed. A revised document setting out the detailed arrangements has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and published by The Stationery Office. The document is entitled "Assessment Arrangements in Key Stages 1 and 2" (ISBN 0 337 04325 6) and copies will be distributed to schools shortly.

4. The Education (NI) Order 1996 provides a new legislative basis for making statements of special educational needs: the amendment to the Assessment Order takes account of this change. It does not, however, have any practical effect on the assessment arrangements.

**L ASHE**  
**Assessment and Examinations Branch**