

**Subject:**

**EXCEPTIONAL CLOSURE DAY  
CURRICULUM 2000**

**Circular Number:**

**2000/3**

**Date of Issue:**

1 March 2000

**Target Audience:**

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided Secondary schools;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Association of Governing Bodies of Grammar Schools;
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education; and
- Teachers' Unions.

**Summary of Contents:**

This Circular sets out the arrangements for Secondary (including Grammar) schools which will have a sixth form in September 2000 to take an exceptional closure day in the 1999/00 school year to work on the implementation of the new post-16 qualifications framework.

**Enquiries:**

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

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**Governor Awareness:**

Essential

**Status of Contents:**  
Information for schools

**Related Documents:****Superseded Documents:**

None

**Expiry Date:**

Not applicable

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## **CURRICULUM 2000 - EXCEPTIONAL CLOSURE DAY**

1. The purpose of this circular is to advise all grant-aided schools which will have a sixth form in September 2000 that they may take an exceptional closure day (ECD) in the 1999/00 school year to enable them to plan for the implementation of the new and revised post-16 qualifications framework. In particular, schools will wish to reconcile the new Advanced Subsidiary (AS) specifications with existing teaching programmes, take account of the need to integrate the new arrangements for Key Skills and plan for the phased introduction of the changes from September 2000.
2. Schools will of course be aware that ECDs reduce the time available for teaching and can cause difficulties for the organisation of school meals, transport and the childminding arrangements for some parents and this should be borne in mind when deciding whether or not to avail of this opportunity. In making this decision a school will also want to have regard to the size of its sixth form and the degree of planning needed to implement the new qualifications framework. Where a school decides to avail of the ECD it should advise the relevant Education and Library Board and, where appropriate CCMS, to ensure that school transport and meals arrangements are organised as appropriate.

**PETER LOWRY**  
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