

# **INTO RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT EDUCATION (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER – DECEMBER 2005**

## **PART II THE CURRICULUM**

### **Articles 3-13**

A. General Duty, Statutory requirements relating to curriculum, Duties relating to the curriculum

INTO supports the provisions relating to the curriculum Articles 3-13 of the Draft Education Order. There has been full and meaningful consultation in relation to these matters.

INTO regards it as necessary to have a clear statement of the main requirements of the curriculum and these are set out in Articles 5, 6 and Schedule 1.

The main concern INTO would have is in relation to the statutory provisions given to Governors in a school with regard to the curriculum. INTO does not regard local delegation as an adequate tool for ensuring the education of pupils in schools.

B. INTO has a reservation about para 12(1) whereby a Board of Governors is required to make, and keep up-to-date, a written statement of curriculum policy. INTO does not regard it as necessary to keep such a written up-to-date policy statement. INTO believes this proposal should be workload proofed.

With respect to Article 13(1)(c) INTO does not regard it as necessary that pupils should be assessed in religious education in this manner at key stage levels.

C. Omit 12(1)(b) and 13(1)(c).

## **PART II THE CURRICULUM - SPECIAL CASES**

### **Articles 14-17**

INTO supports the provisions in Articles 14-17.

INTO supports these articles and the facility to modify and apply the statutory curriculum where the Department considers it necessary.

## **PART II THE CURRICULUM – ACCESS TO COURSES FOR OLDER PUPILS –**

### **Articles 18 – 22**

A. INTO supports in principle these articles.

B. INTO has reservations about the Department's designation of "applied" and "general" courses. INTO had reservations about the specified number of subjects 24/27 at upper range in post primary schools and is pleased that this number has been omitted from this section of the Education Order.

## **PART II THE CURRICULUM- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

### **Article 23**

INTO supports the continuing provision of the support service to schools.

INTO strongly supports recent guidance from the Department relating to Education and Library Board's and other entities working more in co-operation with each other to minimise duplication. INTO would urge that this should be a requirement pending the development of the new educational body.

#### **Article 24**

A. INTO supports in principle the provision of information in relation to education in schools.

B. INTO believes this proposal needs to be workload proofed.

#### **Article 25**

A. INTO opposes the principle behind this provision in the Education Reform Order 1989.

B. INTO reservations are that Boards of Governors are not fit for purpose in terms of determining the curriculum that pupils should be receiving in schools. INTO also opposes the establishment of Curriculum Appeals Tribunals to hear such complaints. INTO views these matters as being best dealt with in professional dialogue in schools settings.

#### **Article 26**

INTO supports these provisions.

### **PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

#### **Articles 27-29**

##### **Admissions**

INTO fully supports the provision in Articles 27-29 with respect to the arrangements for admitting pupils to Post Primary schools.

INTO particularly welcomes the ending of Article 14 of the 1987 Order. INTO is completely opposed to the continuation of academic selection at the age of 11.

### **PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

#### **Articles 30-33**

##### **Suspensions and Expulsions**

INTO supports in principle the establishment of a Suspension and Expulsion Scheme in grant aided schools. INTO is concerned, however, that the authority of principals is being unnecessarily diluted. The centralisation of suspensions and expulsions may impact negatively on the education of all pupils in school settings as a result. INTO is of the view that Boards of Governors should still retain the authority to expel pupils in exceptional circumstances. INTO seeks a meeting with the Department of Education to establish the implications of the outworkings of these articles.

### **PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

#### **Articles 34-26**

##### **General Teaching Council**

INTO supports these articles. The GTC should be the body that gives approval to teacher qualifications. The Department's approval role in Article 34 in relation to the terms and conditions of the teacher register should be removed.

**PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

**Articles 37-28**

**Institutions of Further Education**

INTO supports these articles in principles.

**PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

**Article 39**

**Baseline Assessment**

INTO supports Article 39.

**PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

**Article 40**

**Annual Parents' Meetings**

INTO supports the removal on the requirement on the Board of Governors to hold an Annual Parents Meeting. This is a long overdue reform.

**PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

**Article 41**

INTO has no comment on this article

**PART III- MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

**Article 43 Schedule 2 Part 2**

**Supplementary Provisions**

INTO opposes the proposed addendum to Article 26. INTO believes that this proposal is inimical to the provisions of local management of schools. It could lead to difficulties in school funding if a pupil was removed to a special unit for a short designated period during the school census during the end of October. INTO also regards it as bad practice to remove pupils from their school rolls as they will return at some future date.

**INTO**

**March 2006**