



Department of
Education

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To the Chairs of the Board of Governors
and the Principals of All Grant-Aided Schools

27 November 2009

DELIVERY OF THE REVISED CURRICULUM AND HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS FROM PARENTS AND OTHER PARTIES

The purpose of this letter is to remind Boards of Governors of their responsibility to deliver the revised curriculum and to ensure that arrangements remain in place regarding Curriculum Complaints Tribunal.

Delivery of the revised curriculum

The revised curriculum is now in place for all year groups from foundation to Key Stage 4 and all grant-aided schools are required by law to ensure the effective delivery of the curriculum in line with the relevant legislation. As you will know, the curriculum is designed to ensure that all our young people have the opportunity to receive a broad and balanced education through teaching and learning that has a clear focus on raising standards in literacy and numeracy and that also allows young people to develop their knowledge and skills (including cross-curricular and other skills) in all of the areas of learning specified in law.

The particular duties of Boards of Governors in relation to the curriculum are contained in Article 12 of the 2006 Order which makes clear that the Board of Governors must have in place, and regularly review and update, a written statement of its curriculum policy. It must also ensure that it sends a copy of its curriculum policy (and copies of any subsequent updates to that policy) to its local Education & Library Board and also, in the case of catholic maintained schools, to the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. From the date of establishment of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA), the requirement will be to send any revisions of a school's curriculum policy statement to ESA.

Complaints about delivery of the revised curriculum

Parents and other interested parties have the right in law to register a complaint if they feel a school is failing to meet its statutory duties in relation to the revised curriculum and it is important that Boards of Governors ensure that they have in place appropriate arrangements for hearing those complaints and for reaching a decision on whether or not to uphold a complaint. It is the Department's expectation that, in the vast majority of cases, complaints will be resolved at school level.

Where a resolution at school level does not prove possible, the procedure set out in circular 1993/1 (Curriculum Complaints Tribunals) still applies. It is important that your Board of Governors remembers that it must, in cases where the complainant is not happy with its decision on a complaint, provide him or her with the address of your ELB's Curriculum Complaints Tribunal¹ and a copy of circular 1993/1 along with any other relevant information about complaints procedures.

It is important that schools are aware that the Curriculum (Complaints Tribunal) Regulations (NI) 1992, as amended by the Curriculum (Complaints Tribunals) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, continue to apply as if they were made under the 2006 Order.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter please contact Mrs Kym Cairns, Curriculum Development Team on 028 91279343.

¹ The address will normally be the Headquarters address of your local Education & Library Board. The Education & Skills Authority, when established, will confirm to schools the address to be used for the Curriculum Complaints Tribunal



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