

Education Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 32

PART 6

THE CURRICULUM IN ENGLAND

The National Curriculum for England

^{F1}81 The foundation stage

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 81 repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 8, Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)

82 The key stages

(1) For the purposes of this Part, the key stages in relation to a pupil are—

- (a) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which he attains the age of six and ending at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of seven ("the first key stage"),
- (b) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of eight and ending at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of eleven ("the second key stage"),
- (c) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of twelve and ending at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of fourteen ("the third key stage"), and
- (d) the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class attain the age of fifteen and ending at the same time

as the school year in which the majority of pupils in his class cease to be of compulsory school age ("the fourth key stage").

- (2) The head teacher of a school may elect, in relation to a particular pupil and a particular subject, that subsection (1) shall have effect as if any reference to the school year in which the majority of pupils in that pupil's class attain a particular age were a reference to the school year in which that pupil attains that age.
- (3) If at any time, in the case of a pupil of compulsory school age, subsection (1) does not, apart from this subsection, apply to determine the period within which that time falls, that subsection shall have effect as if—
 - (a) in the case of paragraphs (a) to (c), any reference to the school year in which the majority of pupils in that pupil's class attain a particular age were a reference to the school year in which that pupil attains that age, and
 - (b) in the case of paragraph (d), the period were a period beginning at the same time as the school year in which he attains the age of fifteen and ending when he ceases to be of compulsory school age.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order—
 - (a) provide that, in relation to any subject specified in the order, subsection (1) shall have effect as if for the ages of seven and eight there specified there were substituted such other ages (less than eleven and twelve respectively) as may be specified in the order, or
 - (b) amend subsections (1) to (3).
- (5) In this section "class", in relation to a particular pupil and a particular subject, means-
 - (a) the teaching group in which he is regularly taught in that subject, or
 - (b) where there are two or more such groups, such one of them as may be designated by the head teacher of the school.

F²83 Curriculum requirements for foundation stage

Textual Amendments

F2 S. 83 repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 9, Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)

84 Curriculum requirements for first, second and third key stages

- (1) For the first, second and third key stages, the National Curriculum for England shall comprise the core and other foundation subjects specified in subsections (2) and (3), and shall specify attainment targets, programmes of study and assessment arrangements in relation to each of those subjects for each of those stages.
- (2) The following are the core subjects for the first, second and third key stages—
 - (a) mathematics,
 - (b) English, and
 - (c) science.

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- (3) The following are the other foundation subjects for the first, second and third key stages—
 - (a) design and technology,
 - [^{F3}(b) computing,]
 - (c) physical education,
 - (d) history,
 - (e) geography,
 - (f) art and design,
 - (g) music,
 - $[^{F4}(ga)$ in relation to the second key stage, a foreign language,] and
 - (h) in relation to the third key stage—
 - (i) citizenship, and
 - (ii) a modern foreign language.

[^{F5}(A4) In paragraph (ga) of subsection (3) "foreign language" means –

- (a) a foreign language specified in an order made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this subsection, or
- (b) if the order provides that any foreign language is a foreign language for the purposes of this subsection, any foreign language;

(4) In sub-paragraph (ii) of subsection (3)(h) "modern foreign language" means -

- (a) a modern foreign language specified in an order made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this subsection, or
- (b) if the order provides that any modern foreign language is a modern foreign language for the purposes of this subsection, any modern foreign language.]
- (5) An order under subsection $[^{F6}(A4) \text{ or }]$ (4) may—
 - (a) specify circumstances in which a language is not to be treated as a foundation subject, and
 - (b) provide for the determination under the order of any question arising as to whether a particular language is a [^{F7}foreign language or modern foreign language, as the case may be].
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsections (2) to (5).

Textual Amendments

- **F3** S. 84(3)(b) substituted (1.9.2014) by The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements) (England) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2092), arts. 1, **2**
- F4 S. 84(3)(ga) inserted (1.9.2014) by The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Second Key Stage) (England) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2093), arts. 1, 2(a)
- **F5** S. 84(A4)(4) substituted for s. 84(4) (1.9.2014) by The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Second Key Stage) (England) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2093), arts. 1, **2(b)**
- **F6** Words in s. 84(5) inserted (1.9.2014) by The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Second Key Stage) (England) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2093), arts. 1, **2(c)**
- **F7** Words in s. 84(5)(b) substituted (1.9.2014) by The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Second Key Stage) (England) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2093), arts. 1, **2(d)**

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[^{F9}85 ^{F8}Curriculum requirements for fourth key stage

- (1) For the fourth key stage, the National Curriculum for England shall comprise the core and other foundation subjects and the elements referred to in subsection (5).
- (2) The National Curriculum for England shall specify programmes of study in relation to each of the core and other foundation subjects for the fourth key stage.
- (3) The following are the core subjects for the fourth key stage—
 - (a) mathematics,
 - (b) English, and
 - (c) science.
- (4) The following are the other foundation subjects for the fourth key stage—
 - [^{F10}(a) computing,]
 - (b) physical education, and
 - (c) citizenship.
- (5) The elements for the fourth key stage referred to in subsection (1) are—

- ^{F11}(a)
 - (b) in relation to any pupil who so elects, one subject from each of such one or more of the four entitlement areas specified below as the pupil may elect.
- (6) Those entitlement areas are—
 - (a) arts, comprising-
 - (i) art and design,
 - (ii) music,
 - (iii) dance,
 - (iv) drama, and
 - (v) media arts,
 - (b) design and technology (comprising only that subject),
 - (c) humanities, comprising-
 - (i) geography, and
 - (ii) history, and
 - (d) modern foreign languages, comprising any modern foreign language specified in an order made by the Secretary of State or, if the order so specifies, any modern foreign language.

(7) An order under subsection (6)(d) may—

- (a) specify circumstances in which a language is not to be treated as falling within subsection (6)(d), and
- (b) provide for the determination under the order of any question arising as to whether a particular language is a modern foreign language.
- (8) A pupil in the fourth key stage shall, if he so elects, be entitled to follow a course of study in a subject within each of the four entitlement areas specified in subsection (6); but this entitlement is satisfied where one subject within each of those entitlement areas is made available to him by or on behalf of the school at which he is a registered pupil.
- (9) In the exercise of their functions under this Part by virtue of this section, a [^{F12}local authority], governing body or head teacher shall have regard to any guidance relating

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to ^{F13}... the entitlement areas which is issued from time to time by the [^{F14}Secretary of State].

(10) In this section—

"course of study" means a course of education or training which leads to a qualification approved under section 98 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 for the purposes of section 96 of that Act;

^{F15}...]

Textual Amendments

- **F8** S. 85 amendment to earlier affecting provision 2006 c. 40 s. 74(1) (1.4.2012) by Education Act 2011 (c. 21), s. 82(3), **Sch. 8 para. 20(a)**; S.I. 2012/924, art. 2
- F9 S. 85 substituted (E.) (15.11.2003) by Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Fourth Key Stage) (England) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/2946), arts. 1(2), 2 (with art. 3)
- **F10** S. 85(4)(a) substituted (1.9.2014) by The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements) (England) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/2092), arts. 1, **3**
- F11 S. 85(5)(a) omitted (1.9.2012) by virtue of The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Fourth Key Stage) (England) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2056), arts. 1, 2(a)
- **F12** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, Sch. 2 para. 11(2)
- **F13** Words in s. 85(9) omitted (1.9.2012) by virtue of The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Fourth Key Stage) (England) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2056), arts. 1, **2(b)**
- F14 Words in s. 85(9) substituted (1.4.2012) by Education Act 2011 (c. 21), s. 82(3), Sch. 8 para. 12; S.I. 2012/924, art. 2
- F15 Words in s. 85(10) omitted (1.9.2012) by virtue of The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Fourth Key Stage) (England) Order 2012 (S.I. 2012/2056), arts. 1, 2(c)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 S. 85 applied by 1989 c. 41, Sch. 2 para. 19(6) (as amended (30.12.2005) by Adoption and Children Act 2002 (c. 38), s. 148(1), Sch. 3 para. 72(b) (with Sch. 4 paras. 6-8); S.I. 2005/2213, art. 2(o) (as amended (15.10.2005) by S.I. 2005/2897, art. 14(3)))
- C2 S. 85 modified (temp.) (1.4.2007) by Education and Inspections Act 2006 (c. 40), ss. 74(4), 188(3) (with s. 74(5)); S.I. 2007/935, art. 5(k)
- C3 S. 85(9) modified (temp.) by 2009 c. 22 Sch. 12 para. 33 (as amended) (30.3.2010) by The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) and (Commencement No. 2 (Amendment)) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1151), art. 21

86 Power to alter or remove requirements for fourth key stage

The Secretary of State may by order-

- (a) amend any provision of section 85, or
- (b) provide that, while the order remains in force, that section is not to have effect.

87 Establishment of the National Curriculum for England by order

[^{F16}(1) The Secretary of State shall so exercise the powers conferred by subsection (3) as to revise the National Curriculum for England whenever he considers it necessary or expedient to do so.]

- (3) In respect of the first, second and third key stages and (subject to section 86) the fourth key stage, the Secretary of State may by order specify in relation to each of the foundation subjects—
 - (a) such attainment targets,
 - (b) such programmes of study, and
 - (c) such assessment arrangements,

as he considers appropriate for that subject.

(4) An order under subsection ^{F18}... (3) may not require—

- (a) the allocation of any particular period or periods of time during ^{F19}... any key stage to the teaching of any ^{F19}... programme of study or any matter, skill or process forming part of it, or
- (b) the making in school timetables ^{F20}... of provision of any particular kind for the periods to be allocated to such teaching during any such stage.
- (5) An order under subsection ^{F21}... (3) may, instead of containing the provisions to be made, refer to provisions in a document [^{F22}published by a person, and in the manner, specified] in the order and direct that those provisions are to have effect or, as the case may be, are to have effect as amended by the order.

 $F^{23}(6)$

[^{F24}(6A) Before making an order under subsection (3)(c) the Secretary of State—

- (a) shall consult the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, and
- (b) may consult such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.]
- (7) An order under subsection (3)(c) may confer or impose such functions on—
 - (a) the governing body and head teacher, ^{F25}...
 - (b) the $[^{F12}$ local authority],
 - $[^{F26}(c) \quad {}^{F27}...$ and
 - (d) any other person with whom the Secretary of State has made arrangements in connection with the development, implementation or monitoring of assessment arrangements,]

as appear to the Secretary of State to be required.

- (8) An order under subsection ^{F28}... (3)(c) may specify such assessment arrangements as may for the time being be made by a person specified in the order.
- [^{F29}(8A) An order under subsection (3)(c) which includes provision made by virtue of subsection (8) shall provide that before making or revising the assessment arrangements the person specified in the order—
 - (a) shall consult the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, and
 - (b) may consult such other persons as that person considers appropriate.]

 - (10) [^{F31}The duties that may be imposed by virtue of subsection (7)(a) or (b) include, in relation to persons exercising any function in connection with the moderation or monitoring of assessment arrangements, the duty to permit them—]
 - (a) to enter premises of the school F32 ...,
 - (b) to observe implementation of the arrangements, and

- (c) to inspect, and take copies of, documents and other articles.
- [^{F33}(11) An order under subsection (3)(c) may authorise a person specified in the order to make delegated supplementary provisions in relation to such matters as may be specified in the order.
 - (12) In this section "delegated supplementary provisions" means such provisions (other than provisions conferring or imposing functions as mentioned in subsection (7)(a) or (b)) as appear to the authorised person to be expedient for giving full effect to, or otherwise supplementing, the provisions made by the order.
- [^{F34}(12A) An order under subsection (3)(c) which authorises a person to make delegated supplementary provisions shall provide that before making, amending or revoking any such provisions the person so authorised—
 - (a) shall consult the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation, and
 - (b) may consult such other persons as that person considers appropriate.]
 - (13) An order under subsection (3)(c) authorising the making of delegated supplementary provisions may provide that such provisions may be made only with the approval of the Secretary of State.
 - (14) Any delegated supplementary provisions shall, on being published as specified in the order under which they are made, have effect for the purposes of this Part as if made by the order.]

Textual Amendments

- **F12** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, Sch. 2 para. 11(2)
- F16 S. 87(1) substituted (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(2); S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- F17 S. 87(2) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(3), Sch. 3 Pt. 1;
 S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- **F18** Words in s. 87(4) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(4)(a), Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- F19 Words in s. 87(4)(a) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(4) (b), Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- F20 Words in s. 87(4)(b) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(4) (c), Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- F21 Words in s. 87(5) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(5), Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- F22 Words in s. 87(5) substituted (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), Sch. 12 para. 35(2); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1
- F23 S. 87(6) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(6), Sch. 3 Pt. 1;
 S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- F24 S. 87(6A) inserted (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), ss. 159(2), 269(4); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5-20)
- F25 Word in s. 87(7)(a) repealed (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), Sch. 12 para. 35(3)(a), Sch. 16 Pt. 4; S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1
- F26 S. 87(7)(c)(d) inserted (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), Sch. 12 para. 35(3)(b); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1
- **F27** S. 87(7)(c) omitted (1.4.2012) by virtue of Education Act 2011 (c. 21), s. 82(3), **Sch. 8 para. 13**; S.I. 2012/924, art. 2

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- F28 Words in s. 87(8) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(7), Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- **F29** S. 87(8A) inserted (1.4.2010 for specified purposes) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), ss. 159(3), 269(4); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5-20)
- **F30** S. 87(9) repealed (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), Sch. 12 para. 35(4), Sch. 16 Pt. 4; S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1
- **F31** Words in s. 87(10) substituted (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), Sch. 12 para. 35(5); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1
- F32 Words in s. 87(10)(a) repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 10(8) (b), Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)
- **F33** S. 87(11)-(14) substituted for s. 87(11) (1.4.2010) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), Sch. 12 para. 35(6); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1
- F34 S. 87(12A) inserted (1.4.2010 for specified purposes) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), ss. 159(4), 269(4); S.I. 2010/1151, art. 2, Sch. 1 (with arts. 5-20)

88 Implementation of the National Curriculum for England in schools

[^{F35}(1)] In relation to any maintained school and any school year—

- (a) the [^{F12}local authority] and the governing body shall exercise their functions with a view to securing, and
- (b) the head teacher shall secure,

that the National Curriculum for England as subsisting at the beginning of that year is implemented.

[^{F36}This subsection does not apply in relation to assessment arrangements.]

[^{F37}(1A) In relation to any maintained school—

- (a) the [^{F12}local authority] and the governing body must exercise their functions with a view to securing, and
- (b) the head teacher must secure,

that the assessment arrangements specified for the time being in the National Curriculum for England are implemented.]

Textual Amendments

F12 Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, Sch. 2 para. 11(2)

- **F35** S. 88(1): s. 88 renumbered as s. 88(1) (26.11.2008) by Education and Skills Act 2008 (c. 25), ss. **156(1)**, 173(1)(b)
- **F36** Words in s. 88(1) inserted (26.11.2008) by Education and Skills Act 2008 (c. 25), ss. 156(1), 173(1)(b)
- **F37** S. 88(1A) inserted (26.11.2008) by Education and Skills Act 2008 (c. 25), ss. 156(2), 173(1)(b)

F3889 Implementation in respect of nursery schools etc.

Textual Amendments

F38 S. 89 repealed (1.9.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), s. 109(2), Sch. 1 para. 11, Sch. 3 Pt. 1; S.I. 2008/2261, art. 2 (with Sch. 1)

Changes to legislation:

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View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/1667 Sch. para. 1 by S.I. 2004/571 Sch.
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/1667 Sch. para.
 1A and 2 by S.I. 2005/2570 art. 2

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters: Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 27(1A) inserted by 2010 c. 26 s. 4(1)
- s. 29(2A)-(2D) inserted by 2009 c. 22 s. 260(4) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 250 omitted (1.9.2012) by virtue of 2011 c. 21, s. 29(9)(d); S.I. 2012/1087, art. 3)
- s. 29B inserted by 2008 c. 25 s. 157
- s. 8585A substituted for s. 85 by 2006 c. 40 s. 74(1)
- s. 85A amendment to earlier affecting provision 2006 c. 40 s. 74(1) by 2011 c. 21 s. 31(2)
- s. 85A(5) words substituted by 2009 c. 22 Sch. 12 para. 34
- s. 86(1) s. 86 renumbered as s. 86(1) by 2006 c. 40 s. 74(2)(c)
- s. 86(2) inserted by 2006 c. 40 s. 74(2)(c)
- s. 88(2)-(7) inserted by 2006 c. 40 s. 74(3)
- s. 88(7) repealed by S.I. 2010/1080 Sch. 1 para. 45Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 88(2)-(7) by 2006 c. 40, s 74(3) was repealed without ever being brought into force.)
- s. 142(9)(b) words substituted by S.I. 2010/1158 Sch. 2 para. 11(10)(b)
- s. 210A inserted by 2008 c. 25 Sch. 1 para. 79