1995 No. 303

EDUCATION

Secondary Schools (Admissions Criteria) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995

Made	*1st August 1995*
Coming into operation . .	*4th September 1995*

The Department of Education, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 38(6) of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Secondary Schools (Admissions Criteria) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and shall come into operation on 4th September 1995.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"assessment arrangements" has the meaning given by Article 7(3)(*c*) of the 1989 Order;

"key stage 2" means the key stage as defined by Article 5(6)(*b*) of the 1989 Order;

"preference" means a preference expressed by a parent as to the school at which he wishes education to be provided for his child by virtue of Article 36(1) or (5) of the 1989 Order;

"relevant assessment" means an assessment of a pupil required by Article 6(3) of the 1989 Order;

"pilot assessment" means an assessment of an experimental and voluntary nature in advance of the introduction of a relevant assessment;

"school year" means a year beginning on 1st August and ending on 31st July, both dates inclusive;

"the 1989 Order" means the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989;

"the criteria" means the criteria to be drawn up under Article 38 (1) of the 1989 Order;

(a) S.I. 1989/2406 (N.I. 20)

"transfer procedure test grade" means the grade achieved by a pupil on his performance in an examination which is a relevant examination under Article 21(12)(*c*) of the 1989 Order.

Application

3. Save as otherwise herein provided these Regulations shall apply to all grant-aided secondary schools.

Matters to be included in criteria

4. The criteria shall include the following matters—

(*a*) the order of priority in which pupils shall be admitted to the school where the number of applications for admission exceeds the school's admissions number for any school year;

(*b*) where a grammar school includes in its criteria the transfer procedure test grade achieved by pupils, a provision that, subject to regulation 6 and to the consideration by the Board of Governors of medical or other problems which may have affected a child's performance in a test and which are supported by documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature—

a pupil who achieved the transfer procedure test Grade A shall be admitted in preference to a pupil with any other grade;

a pupil who achieved the transfer procedure test Grade B1 shall be admitted in preference to a pupil who achieved a transfer procedure test Grade B2, C1, C2 or D;

a pupil who achieved the transfer procedure test Grade B2 shall be admitted in preference to a pupil who achieved a transfer procedure test Grade C1, C2 or D;

a pupil who achieved the transfer procedure test Grade C1 shall be admitted in preference to a pupil who achieved a transfer procedure test Grade C2 or D;

a pupil who achieved the transfer procedure test Grade C2 shall be admitted in preference to a pupil who achieved a transfer procedure test Grade D.

Matters not to be included in criteria

5. The criteria shall not include the following matters—

(*a*) provision for the selection of pupils by reference to ability or aptitude, except in the case of—

(i) a grammar school;

(ii) a school which on 5th September 1994 was recognised by the Department as one which selects some of its pupils by reference to ability or aptitude; or

(iii) a school for which a development proposal is approved by the Department under Article 14 of the principal Order and which enables that school to select some of its pupils by reference to ability or aptitude;