

12 December 2012

Dear Member

As requested at NICIE's meeting with the Education Committee on 5th December, please find attached a draft amendment, which were it possible to include in the Education Bill could pave the way for a 'new model' type school which would be bi-lateral in intake, be integrated in ethos and be community based.

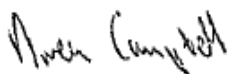
It is based on the legislation to establish Academies to be found in UK legislation. Part IV of the 1993 Education Order which provides for the amalgamation of institutes of further education might also be useful to look at in this respect.

Legislation to permit the development of such 'new model' schools would allow for the recognition and history of the previous schools to be acknowledged and should make it easier for our educational system to move beyond the present sectoral approach.

I hope you find this useful and if I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,



Noreen Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

Draft amendment to Education Bill

Article 22 Ancillary Powers of ESA

Interfaith and multid denominational schools

Article 22 new clauses (3) and (4)

Article 22 (3) In order to develop shared and integrated education the ESA may encourage and facilitate the development of co-operative educational endeavors including (inter alia) interfaith and multi-denominational schools.

Article 22 (4) a) The ESA may assist the governing bodies (and trustees as the case may be) of two or more schools in different sectors or in differing forms of ownership to apply to the Department of Education for an order to be made for recognition of conversion to an interdenominational or inter-faith school in respect of the schools in question.

b) The Department of Education may not make an order for recognition of an interfaith or multi-denominational school unless it is satisfied that it ensures:

- i) just and equal treatment for the identities, ethos and aspirations of the two main communities;
- ii) respects the right of parents of different and all other cultures and traditions;
- iii) the best interests of the children directly or indirectly affected.

c) The Department of Education may not make an order for the recognition of an interfaith or multid denominational school unless it has been approved in an area education plan and meets the conditions specified in articles 24,25,26,27,28,29 and 30 of the area planning section of the Education Bill.

d) The procedure for establishing an interfaith or multi-denominational school shall be as provided in the provisions of (Article 1-20 (inclusive) and Schedules 1 and Schedule 2 of the UK Parliament Academies Act 2010 as amended.)



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