

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

THE EDUCATION (NATIONAL CURRICULUM) (ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND PROGRAMMES OF STUDY IN [ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SCIENCE, WELSH,]) (WALES) ORDER 2000

Background

Section 356 of the Education Act 1996 contains an Order making power under which the National Assembly for Wales may specify attainment targets and programmes of study for each of the National Curriculum foundation subjects.

An Order does not itself have to contain the provisions to be made. An Order may direct that provision is to have effect as specified in a separately published document.

This Report covers five Orders providing for attainment targets and programmes of study in respect of the foundation subjects of English, Mathematics, PE, Science and Welsh. Apart from the references to the subject, and the provisions in the Science Order, the Orders are in identical form. The targets and programmes in each Order are those which are set out in the document published by the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales for the particular subject in question.

The different provision in the Science Order is an express prohibition

(in Article 3(2)) of study relating to AIDS, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and non biological aspects of sexual behaviour. This conforms with the requirement in section 356(9) of the Education Act 1996, and is reflected in the additional citation of section 356(9) in the enabling powers of the Science Order.

The Orders relating to the other foundation subjects are the same as the present Orders save that whilst the present orders have staged commencement, the other Orders have a single commencement date. These other Orders are reported on separately.

The new requirements are to apply from 1 August 2000, save that in relation to the fourth key

stage the provisions apply from 1 August 2001 for the first year of pupils of that stage and from 1 August 2002 for all other pupils in that stage.

Each Order supersedes the existing order relating to the specific subject in question.

Standing Order 11.5

It is not considered that there are any issues arising under SO 11.5 in respect of which the Committee need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention.

Comments on the Regulations

The Legal Advisers to the Committee have had the benefit of commenting on the earlier drafts of these Orders. A few small drafting points which were identified have accordingly been taken into account in the drafts which are before the Assembly. There are however, just the following two minor points which the Committee wish to draw to the attention of the Assembly.

1. Footnotes

These will need to be in dual column format in the printed Orders.

In footnote (ch)/(d) to Article 1(3), the ISBN number remains to be inserted.

2. Article 1 – paragraph numbering

The word processor is causing various different errors in the paragraph numbering in the Welsh texts. These will need to be rectified in the made and printed versions.

M. German

Chair, Legislation Committee

7th December 1999

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