Nursery Classes in Primary Schools

REGULATIONS, DATED 12TH APRIL, 1956, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1947, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

1956. No. 69 [C]

The Ministry of Education (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") in pursuance of the powers vested in it by Sections 104 and 112 of the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1947, (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Nursery Classes in Primary Schools Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1956.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on the date hereof.

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them, that is to say:—

"approved" means approved by the Ministry;

"General Regulations" means the Regulations for the time being in force under the Act for the general conduct of primary schools (except nursery schools);

"nursery class" means a class of pupils in a primary school which has been approved for the purposes of these Regulations;

"recognised" means recognised by the Ministry;

"Salary Regulations" means the Regulations for the time being in force under the Act for the payment of salaries and allowances to teachers in primary schools (except nursery schools);

"teacher" does not include "nursery assistant".

3.—(1) The General Regulations and the Salary Regulations shall apply to nursery classes in primary schools, subject to the modifications set out in these Regulations.

(2) These Regulations shall not apply to nursery schools.

Organisation

4.—(1) The establishment of a nursery class in a primary school shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry.

(2) Each nursery class shall be conducted on approved lines similar to those of a recognised nursery school.

5.—(1) Training and activities suitable to the ages of the pupils shall be provided in each nursery class, and a programme shall be exhibited showing how the day will be spent.

(2) In each nursery class the school day shall last for not less than three hours.

6.—(1) A nursery class shall consist of pupils who have attained the age of three years but have not attained the age of five years.

(2) In a school in which a nursery class is recognised, no child under five years of age shall be enrolled except in a nursery class.

(3) The requirements of the General Regulations that a child who is under the lower limit of compulsory school age shall not be registered for the first time as a pupil in a school on any date other than one of the dates prescribed by the appropriate local education authority under the authority's bye-laws relating to school attendance shall not apply to the registration of a child for enrolment in a nursery class.

Staffing

7. The teaching and nursery assistant staff of each nursery class in a school shall be such as the Ministry may from time to time approve, having regard to the actual or prospective enrolment.

8.—(1) Pupils enrolled in a nursery class shall not be counted in the calculation of the average daily enrolment of the school for the purpose of the staffing of the school under the General Regulations.

(2) Pupils enrolled in a nursery class shall be counted in the calculation of the average daily enrolment of the school for the purpose of calculating a principal's or vice-principal's allowance under the Salary Regulations and for the purpose of the recognition of posts of special responsibility under the General Regulations.

Recognition of Teachers

9.—(1) Save as provided in paragraph (2) of this Regulation, a person shall not be appointed as an assistant teacher in charge of a nursery class unless she has satifactorily completed an approved course of training in nursery school work.

(2) The employment of a person as an assistant teacher who is not eligible under paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be temporary and shall be subject to such other conditions as the Ministry may approve.

Nursery Assistants

10.—(1) A person shall not be employed as a nursery assistant unless she possesses such educational and other qualifications as the Ministry may approve.

(2) The provisions of the General Regulations with regard to teachers' attendance and leave of absence shall not apply to nursery assistants.

Salaries

11.—(1) The scales of salaries and allowances payable to teachers under the Salary Regulations shall apply to assistant teachers in nursery classes appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) of Regulation 9.

(2) The salary payable to a nursery assistant shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry and shall normally be the same as that payable if she were employed in a nursery school.

Grants

12.—(1) Subject to the deduction of any sums properly deductible therefrom, the Ministry may pay grants under these Regulations, in respect of a nursery class in a voluntary school, equal in amount to—

(*a*) the approved salaries and allowances payable by the managers to the assistant teachers; and

(*b*) 65% of the approved salaries payable by the managers to the nursery assistants.

(2) If the managers so desire, the salaries of the assistant teachers (after the deduction of any sums properly deductible therefrom) shall be paid by the Ministry direct to the teachers.

13. The approved expenditure of a local education authority incurred under these Regulations shall be included in the expenditure in respect of which grants are payable by the Ministry to the authority under the Regulations of the Ministry for the time being in force dealing with the payment of grants to local education authorities.

14. If any question arises as to whether any of the requirements of these Regulations are fulfilled, or as to the amount of any salary or allowance payable thereunder, the decision of the Ministry shall be final.

Sealed with the official seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this twelfth day of April, 1956, in the presence of

(L.S.)

R. S. Brownell,
Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland hereby approves of the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the official seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this twelfth day of April, 1956, in the presence of

(L.S.)

C. J. Bateman,
Assistant Secretary.