

Subject:

**GRAMMAR SCHOOLS (CHARGES) (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008 –
STATUTORY RULE 2008 No. 376**

Circular Number:
2008/19

Date of Issue:
10 October 2008

Target Audience:

- Principals, Bursars and Boards of Governors of all voluntary grammar schools;
- Governing Bodies Association;
- NI Voluntary Grammar Schools Bursars' Association;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools; and
- Education and Library Boards.

Summary of Contents:

The purpose of this circular is to draw attention to the Grammar Schools (Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008, which increase the maximum amount of capital fee that the Boards of Governors of some voluntary grammar schools may charge from £130 to £140 with effect from 1 November 2008. It also contains guidance on the circumstances in which voluntary grammar schools should consider the waiving of such fees.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

Chris McRoberts
Schools' Finance Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Governor Awareness:
Essential

Status of Contents:
Advice
Guidance for Schools

Related Documents:
Not Applicable

Superseded Documents:
2007/2

Expiry Date:
Not Applicable

DE Website:
<http://www.deni.gov.uk>

Tel: 028 9127 9435
Fax: 028 9127 9658

**GRAMMAR SCHOOLS (CHARGES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008 – STATUTORY RULE 2008 No. 376**

1. The Department wishes to draw attention to the Grammar Schools (Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008, which came into operation on 1 November 2008.
2. These regulations amend the Grammar Schools (Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 and revoke the Grammar Schools (Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The amended regulations provide for an increase to the maximum amount which the Board of Governors of a Group A voluntary grammar school may charge in respect of any pupil enrolled in the secondary department of the school for the purpose of meeting expenditure incurred for the provision or alteration of school premises or on the provision of associated equipment. The regulations increase the maximum amount from £130 to £140.
3. The change noted above will not affect the position of those Group A voluntary grammar schools which have entered into an agreement with the Department under the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 to obtain 100% funding on capital projects. **The current capital charge levied by such schools has been set by the Department and remains unchanged.**
4. All voluntary grammar schools must detail in their Charges and Remissions Policy the circumstances under which the collection of a capital fee may be waived in whole or in part. The Department recommends that in detailing the circumstances under which the collection of a capital fee may be waived in whole or in part, the following criteria should be included:
 - Where the pupil or the parent is in receipt of Income Support or Income-Based Job Seekers' Allowance; or,

- Where the parents receive the Child Tax Credit; and are ineligible for the Working Tax Credit because they work less than 16 hours per week; and have an annual taxable income not exceeding an amount determined by the Department, which in 2008/09 is £15,575. The Department will notify all schools of the amount determined each year; or,
 - Where the pupil is the child of an asylum seeker supported by the Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS).
5. Copies of the new Regulations may be obtained from The Stationery Office Bookshop, 16 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GD (price £4.00 plus postage).



ROISIN LILLEY (MS)
SCHOOLS' FINANCE BRANCH