

# Powers to Facilitate Innovation Annual report for the academic year ending 31 July 2005

Publication date 27/10/05

## **Report number 3**

### **Background**

The Education Act 2002, Section 5 sets out the requirement for the Secretary of State to prepare a report on all the orders made by him under section 2 of the Act in that academic year and to lay a copy of the report before each House of Parliament.

The purpose of the “power to innovate” is to facilitate the implementation of innovative projects that may contribute to the raising of the educational standards, by allowing the Secretary of State to make orders under section 2 to exempt applicants from education law requirements. The Power was commenced on 1 October 2002. The Power has a

four year lifespan, meaning that only amending or revoking orders may be made after 1 October 2006.

The 'Power to Innovate' is an important part of the Government's determination to use innovation to drive up educational standards. Schools and Local Authorities have used it to support their work, for example, in making innovative use of the school workforce, addressing the issue of pupil nutrition and personalising the curriculum to meet the needs of underachieving groups.

The success of the Power to Innovate does not lie only in approved applications but rather in its very existence. Awareness of the Power encourages schools and Local Authorities to think about the real and perceived barriers to raising standards. More often than not enquirers to the DfES Innovation Unit discover that they already have the freedom and flexibility to pursue their innovative ideas.

### Orders made under the Power

In the 2002/2003 academic year (the first academic year of the Power to Innovate) 3 Orders were made. These Orders applied to 3 school institutions and are described in the first Annual Report published on 30 October 2004. The second annual report, published 28 October 2004 describes a further five Orders, directly affecting around 100 schools, that were made in 2003/2004.

In the academic year 2004/2005 a total of five Orders have been made, directly affecting a further 73 schools.

## **ORDER 1**

### **The Albion Junior School (Change to School Session Times) Order 2004 Statutory Instrument 2004 No.2685**

Order made 18 October 2004

#### **Applicant and school to which the Order applies**

Albion Junior School,  
Halfords Lane,  
West Bromwich,  
West Midlands, B71 4LG

#### **Innovation facilitated**

The order permitted the school to change the timings of the school day without fulfilling the requirements set out in the regulations, which include the requirement that such a change may only take place at the beginning of the academic year. The school was scheduled to move site on 1 January 2005 to join its main feeder infants school. The Order allowed the school to change the end time of its school day to fall in line with that of the infants school at the time of the move, without having to wait until the beginning of the next academic year.

## **Relevant Legislation**

Changing of the School Session Times (England) Regulations 1999

### **ORDER 2**

#### **The Wanstead High School (Change to School Session Times) Order Statutory Instrument 2005 No.2058**

Order Made 23 July 2005

#### **Applicant and school to which the Order applies**

Wanstead High School,  
Redbridge Lane West,  
Wanstead,  
London E11 2JZ.

#### **Innovation facilitated**

The order permitted the school to vary the ending of the school day without fulfilling the requirements set out in the regulations, which include giving a minimum of 3 months notice of the proposed change to parents.

The purpose of the Order was to allow the early introduction of a rolling programme of individual pupil/tutor review periods at the end of the school day to support more personalised learning. Parents may also attend the reviews.

Without the Order the programme could not have been introduced until the beginning of the school year 2006/2007.

#### **Relevant legislation**

Changing of the School Session Times (England) Regulations 1999

The following 2 Orders applied to the 68 schools that participated in the New Relationship with Schools pathfinder programme:

### **ORDER 3**

#### **The New Relationship with Schools (Governors' Annual Report) Order 2004 Statutory Instrument 2004 No.2683**

Order made 6 October 2004

### **ORDER 4**

#### **The New Relationship with Schools (Governors' Annual Report) (No 2) Order 2004 Statutory Instrument 2004 No.2810**

Order made 28 October 2004

**Applicants and schools to which the Orders apply**

16 primary schools, 2 special schools and 50 secondary schools, as listed under:

**Primary Schools: Order 3**

Mayespark Primary School  
Goodmayes Lane  
Goodmayes  
Ilford  
Essex IG3 9PX

Cleveland Junior School  
Cleveland Road  
Ilford  
Essex IG1 1EW

Oakdale Junior School  
Oakdale Road  
South Woodford  
Redbridge  
London E18 1JX

St Malachy's RC Primary School  
Eggington Street  
Collyhurst  
Manchester M40 7RG

Moston Fields Primary School  
Brookside Road  
Moston  
Manchester M40 9GN

Pike Fold Primary School  
French Barn Lane  
Blackley  
Manchester M9 8ED

Mount Carmel RC Primary School  
Wilson Road  
Blackley  
Manchester M9 8BG

King David Junior School  
Wilton Polygon  
Manchester M8 5DJ

Moston Lane Community Primary School  
Moston Lane  
Moston  
Manchester M9 4HH

Cravenwood Community Primary School  
Station Road  
Crumpsall  
Manchester M8 5AE

Seymour Primary School  
Seymour Road  
Broadfield  
Crawley  
West Sussex RH11 9ES

St Wilfred's CE Primary School  
Eastern Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex RH16 3NL

Hassocks Infant School  
Chancellors Park  
Hassocks  
West Sussex BN6 8EY

Our Lady Queen of Heaven RC Primary School  
Hare Lane  
Crawley  
West Sussex RH11 7PZ

Fishersgate Community First School  
Gardner Road  
Portslade  
Brighton  
East Sussex BN41 1PN

**Secondary Schools: Order 3**

Plashet School  
Plashet Grove  
East Ham  
London E6 1DG

St Angela's Ursuline Convent School  
St George's Road  
London E7 8HU

Brampton Manor School  
Roman Road  
London E6 3SQ

Forest Gate Community School  
Forest Street  
London E7 0HR

Broadgreen High School  
Queens Drive  
Liverpool L13 5UQ

St John Bosco High School  
Stonedale Crescent  
Liverpool L11 9DQ

St Benedict's College  
Horrocks Avenue  
Liverpool L19 5PF

The Blue Coat School  
Church Road  
Wavertree  
Liverpool L15 9EE

St Julie's Catholic High School  
Speke Road  
Woolton  
Liverpool L25 7TN

Childwall School, Specialist Sports College,  
Fiveways  
Queens Drive  
Liverpool L15 6XZ

King David High School  
Childwall Road  
Liverpool L15 6UZ

Gosforth High School  
Knightsbridge  
Great North Road  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2JH

Kenton School  
Drayton Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3RU

Heaton Manor School  
Jesmond Park West  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7DP

Sacred Heart High School  
Fenham Hall Drive  
Fenham  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9YH

All Saints College  
West Denton Way  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 2SZ

West Gate Community College  
West Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9LU

Walbottle Campus Technology College  
Hexham Road  
Walbottle  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 9TP

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School  
Gretna Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7PX

The Henry Beaufort School  
East Woodhay Road  
Harestock  
Winchester  
Hants SO22 6JJ

Purbrook Park School  
Park Avenue  
Purbrook  
Waterlooville  
Hants PO7 5DS

Cowplain Community School  
Hart Plain Avenue  
Waterlooville  
Hants PO8 8RY

The Arnewood School  
11-18 Technology College  
Gore Road  
New Milton  
Hants BH25 6RS

Wyvern Technology College  
Botley Road  
Fair Oak  
Eastleigh  
Hants SO50 7AN

Hamble Community Sports College  
Satchell Lane  
Hamble  
Hants SO31 4NE

Eggar's School  
London Road  
Holybourne  
Alton  
Hants GU34 4EQ

Porchester Community School  
White Hart Lane  
Porchester  
Fareham  
Hants PO16 9BD

Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School  
St Michael's Road  
Basingstoke  
Hants RG22 6SR

Caistor Yarborough School  
Grimsby Road  
Caistor  
Lincoln LN7 6QZ

The Charles Read High School  
Bourne Road  
Corby Glen  
Grantham  
Lincs NG33 4NT

The Robert Manning Technology College  
Edinburgh Crescent  
Bourne  
Lincs PE10 9DT

The Grantham Church (VA) High School  
Queensway  
Grantham  
Lincs NG31 9RA

St Bede's Catholic Science College  
Tollfield Road  
Boston  
Lincs PE21 9PN

Queen Eleanor Community School  
Green Lane  
Stamford  
Lincs PE9 1HE

St Hugh's Mathematics and Computing College  
The Avenue  
Dysart Road  
Grantham  
Lincs NG31 7PX

Walton Girls' High School  
Harlaxton Road  
Grantham  
Lincs NG31 7JR

Sir William Robertson High School  
Main Road  
Welbourn  
Lincoln LN5 0PA

The Priory LSST  
Cross O'Cliff Hill  
Lincoln LN5 8PW

The Central Technology College  
Rushcliffe Road  
Grantham  
Lincs NG31 8ED

Steyping Grammar School  
Shooting Field  
Steyping  
West Sussex BN44 3RX

Thomas Bennett Community College  
Ashdown Drive  
Tilgate  
Crawley RH10 5AD

Bourne Community College  
Park Road  
Southbourne  
Emsworth  
Hants PO10 8PJ

Millais School  
Depot Road  
Horsham  
West Sussex RH13 5HR

Littlehampton Community School  
Hill Road  
Littlehampton  
West Sussex BN17 6DQ

Davison C.E. High School for Girls  
Selbourne Road  
Worthing  
West Sussex BN11 2JX

St Wilfrid's R.C. School  
Old Horsham Road  
Crawley  
West Sussex RH11 8PG

Warden Park School  
Broad Street  
Cuckfield  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex RH17 5DP

The Weald School  
Upper Station Road  
Billingshurst  
West Sussex RH14 9RY

**Special Schools: Order 3**

Sir Charles Parsons School  
Westbourne Avenue  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE6 4ED

Court Meadow School  
Hanlye Lane  
Cuckfield  
West Sussex RH17 5HN

**Primary School: Order 4**

The Windmills Junior School  
Dale Avenue  
Hassocks  
West Sussex BN6 8LS

**Secondary Schools: Order 4**

Lister Community School  
St Mary's Road  
Plaistow  
Newham  
London E13 9AE

New Heys Comprehensive School  
Health Road  
Liverpool  
Merseyside

**Innovation facilitated**

The two Orders allowed governors of the schools concerned to replace the

Governors' Annual Report with the "School Profile".

As part of the New Relationship with Schools Programme, the schools were testing the format and concept of the new school Profile. The Profile was designed to be less burdensome for schools to prepare than the governors' annual report as well as being a more efficient way of getting information to parents and other interested parties.

An important element of the New Relationship with Schools is reducing burdens on schools in order to raise educational standards.

**Relevant legislation**

Section 30(1) The Education Act 2002

Section 17(7) The School Inspections Act 1996 and Paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 4 to that Act.

Regulation 6 of and Schedule 2 to the Education (School Performance Targets) (England) Regulations 1998

Modification:

Section 317, sub-sections (5) and (6), The Education Act 1996

**ORDER 5**

**The Coventry City Council and the North West Federation of Schools  
(International Certificate of Secondary Education) Order 2005-09-16  
Statutory Instrument 2005 No.1739**

Order made 28 June 2005

**Applicant**

Coventry City Council

**Schools to which the Order applies**

Sidney Stringer School - Specialising in Maths and Computing  
Cox Street  
Coventry CV1 5NL

Barr's Hill School and Community College  
Radford Road  
Coventry CV1 3BU

President Kennedy School and Community College  
Rookery Lane  
Coventry CV6 4GL

**Innovation facilitated**

The Order enables the Coventry City Council and the schools within the North West Federation of Schools to provide a course which leads to the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (“IGCSE”) in English to pupils at those schools.

### **Relevant legislation**

Section 2, Education Act 2002  
Sections 96 and 98, Learning and Skills Act 2000

### Use of the Power to Innovate

The existence of the Power to Innovate has acted as a catalyst in the system, making schools and Local Authorities actively consider what might be the barriers to raising standards for their pupils. In fact they often discover that the Power is rarely needed as the necessary freedoms and flexibilities already exist.

Two documents have been developed to support applicants. These are entitled “Power to Innovate: Guidance to Applicants” and “Power to Innovate: Application for Order” both of which are available to download from the Innovation Unit’s website at <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/innovation-unit/Information/powerinnovate/ptiapply/?version=1>

The guidance informs potential applicants of the process and the criteria they should take into account when applying. It reinforces the need for applicants to demonstrate:

- how their application contributes to the raising of educational standards;
- that their application has regard to the need for the school to have a balanced and broadly based curriculum;
- that they have considered the likely effect their proposal would have on all children who may be affected by it;
- that the proposed order would not have a detrimental effect on pupils with Special Educational Needs; and
- that they have undertaken appropriate consultation.

During this academic year the Department for Education and Skills’ Innovation Unit has continued to receive enquiries from schools wanting to test innovative ideas. These enquiries cover a wide range of issues and include:

From schools:

- Making changes to school sessions, for example, to introduce parental consultation or review days.

- School support for home-educated children
- Closer working arrangements between a Pupil Referral Unit and the schools it serves

From LEAs:

- leadership and governance provisions for Children' s Centres
- Schools and FE colleges and the Learning and Skills Council working together for 14-19 provision.
- Introduction of pupil governors

The Innovation Unit provides advice and a central point of contact for schools. It is clear that the existence of the Power has encouraged schools to consider:

- innovative options that they may not previously have contemplated.
- their existing practice and look into and make use of what freedoms and flexibilities they already have.

In practice not all innovative ideas require an exemption from legislation and the Innovation Unit has been able to explain and promote the flexibilities that exist. To clarify what is possible under the current system, advice on School Freedoms has been placed on the Innovation Unit website.