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To Local Education Authorities (for County and Voluntary Controlled Schools and Special Schools); Managers and Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided, Special Agreement and Direct Grant Schools and of non-maintained Special Schools; Independent Schools and Colleges of Education.

> Circular 1/68 (2nd January, 1968)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, CURZON STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

All communications should be addressed to the PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The attention of Local Education Authorities and schools is invited to the statement below, which was made by the Secretary of State on 19th December, 1967, in reply to a Question in the House of Commons about the use of corporal punishment in schools. Authorities and schools are asked to bring the statement to the notice of all teachers.

Statement by Secretary of State

"My consultations on the recommendations of the Plowden Council have shown that the use of corporal punishment in all types of school is increasingly deprecated by teachers. But while there is very wide support for the view that corporal discipline, many teachers still hold that in some circumstances forbidden to use a reasonable amount of force by way of correction and if pupils knew that teachers were so forbidden. Plowden Report.

> CITY OF MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE EDUCATION OFFICES CROWN SQUARE MANCHESTER 3 J. K. ELLIOT . CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER . BLACKFRIARS 8622

S/DCD/EVH

16th January 1968.

Dear Headmaster/Headmistress,

D.E.S. Circular 1/68: Corporal Punishment

Department of Education and Science Circular 1/68 which was sent to you recently sets out the statement made by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons on 19th December, 1967, about corporal punishment in schools.

The Circular should, for future reference, be pasted in the Schools Punishment Book. Additional copies, if required, may be obtained on request from these offices, quoting reference S4.

Yours sincerely,

To the Headteacher, All Schools.

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CITY OF MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rules governing Corporal Punishment.

General Principles

1. The Education Committee desire that, as far as possible, discipline and good conduct in the schools shall be maintained without recourse to corporal punishment.

2. In exceptional cases, corporal punishment may be administered, provided that the procedure laid down in these Rules is strictly observed.

3. Boxing the ear, striking any part of the head, shaking the body and all other irregular forms of correction are strictly prohibited.

Responsibility of the Head of the School

4. The Head of the School is responsible for ensuring that every teacher in the school, and every student visiting for school practice purposes, is fully acquainted with these Rules and observes them in every particular.

5. The Head of the School is required to report immediately to the Chief Education Officer any contravention of these Rules.

6. Unless permission to administer corporal punishment has been delegated in writing in accordance with Rules 14 and 16 (and has not been subsequently withdrawn) the only person authorised to administer corporal punishment is the Head of the School.

Authorised Instrument

7. (1) The only authorised instrument of punishment is the tawse provided on requisition from the Chief Education Officer. It may be inspected at any time by members of the Education Committee and the Committee's Inspectors of Schools.

(2) No other instrument or object of any kind may be used.

8. The Head of the School is responsible for the custody of the tawse.

9. Only one tawse will be kept in respect of each School Department.

Punishment Book

10. The Head of the School will keep the Punishment Book, which will be in the form prescribed by the Chief Education Officer. It may be inspected at any time by members of the Education Committee and the Committee's Inspectors of Schools.

11. Only one Punishment Book will be kept in respect of each School Department.

12. Immediately after administering corporal punishment the teacher responsible will enter the required details of the punishment in the Punishment Book and sign the entry. The Head of the School will initial every entry.

Delegation

13. Every punishment consisting of three or more strokes of the tawse will be given only by the Head of the School and by no other teacher.

14. The Head of the School may delegate to any Class Teacher who is a qualified teacher of not less than three years' standing the power to administer a punishment of not more than two strokes of the tawse.

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15. The Head of the School may withdraw this delegated power from a Class Teacher at any time.

16. Every such delegation and every withdrawal of delegation must be in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Education Officer, and a copy of it will be given to the teacher concerned.

17. Every delegation and withdrawal of delegation will be recorded in the Log Book of the School.

N. G. FISHER,

Chief Education Officer.

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