

**FAO: The Admission Authorities of all Maintained
Schools which have a Religious Character (Faith
Schools) in England.**

Tel: 0870 0012345
Fax: 020 7925 6000
info@dcscf.gsi.gov.uk
www.dcsf.gov.uk
30 October 2007

Dear colleagues,

**NEW REQUIREMENT ON ADMISSION AUTHORITIES OF FAITH
SCHOOLS TO CONSULT THEIR RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY AS
PRESCRIBED IN REGULATIONS**

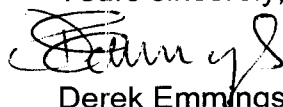
I am writing to inform you that regulations have been laid before Parliament today which will require you, as the admission authorities of maintained faith schools, to consult the religious authority prescribed in the regulations for the religion or religious denomination of your school(s), on their admission arrangements. This first applies to admission arrangements being set for entry in September 2009. Consultation must be completed by 1 March 2008. These regulations, the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Amendment No.2) (England) Regulations 2007 are due to come into force on 26 November and can be viewed at www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20073009.htm

These new regulations prescribe the religious authority for the great majority of faith schools, but there are a small number of faith schools for which an authority is not prescribed. We are continuing to work with representative bodies of their faiths to identify a religious authority for them and will amend the regulations when this work has been concluded.

The School Admissions Code requires the admission authorities of faith schools to have regard to any guidance provided by their religious authority in setting their admission arrangements. The religious authorities prescribed in these regulations have an important power of objection to the Schools Adjudicator about the determined admission arrangements at schools of their faith, if they consider them to be unfair or unlawful.

The admission authorities of all schools, including faith schools, must comply with the law and have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code when determining their admission arrangements for entry in September 2008 and subsequent years. If they are unsure whether their admission arrangements comply with the law and the Code, admission authorities should seek legal advice. Determined admission arrangements can be amended without reference to the Schools Adjudicator to ensure that they do comply (see paragraph 2 of the Introduction to the Code).

Yours sincerely,



Derek Emmings
Assistant Director, Fair Access Division

