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**An Bille um Chomhionannas san Oideachas, 2015**  
**Equality in Education Bill 2015**

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*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

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## ACTS REFERRED TO

Education Act 1998 (No. 51)

Equal Status Act 2000 (No. 8)



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AN BILLE UM CHOMHIONANNAS SAN OIDEACHAS, 2015  
EQUALITY IN EDUCATION BILL 2015

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# Bill

*entitled*

An Act to repeal without exception provisions of law allowing for discrimination on religious grounds against children in admissions to schools; to mandate the Minister for Education and Skills to modernise the curriculum and to provide for related matters. 5

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

## Interpretation

1. In this Act— 10
- “Act of 2000” means the Equal Status Act 2000;
- “board” means a board of management established under section 14, of the Education Act 1998;
- “Department” means the Department of Education and Skills;
- “Minister” means the Minister for Education and Skills; 15
- “Rule 68” means Rule 68 of the Rules for National Schools, 1965, published by the Department;
- “school” means an establishment in receipt of public funding, as defined in the Education Act 1998, which—
- (a) provides primary education to its students and which may also provide early childhood education, or 20
- (b) provides post-primary education to its students and which may also provide courses in adult, continuing or vocational education or vocational training.

## Repeal of section

2. Section 7(3)(c) of the Act of 2000 is repealed. 25

## Guidelines

3. The Minister shall issue guidelines of good practice to assist schools to evaluate their ethos within 12 months of the enactment of this Act.

### **Removal of Rule 68**

4. (1) The Minister shall within 12 months of the enactment of this Act publish revised Rules for National Schools that specifically ensure the removal of the current Rule 68 and ensure that, the general curriculum remains integrated in accordance with Section 30 of the Education Act 1998 with provision being made for denominational religious education or faith formation to be taught as a discrete subject outside of normal school hours. 5
- (2) For greater certainty, nothing in this Act prohibiting discrimination shall be construed as prohibiting the teaching of multi-denominational religious education or religious studies within normal school hours. 10

### **Policy in accordance with Diversity Protocol**

5. Boards of Management shall develop a policy for their school in accordance with the Department's Diversity Protocol and, in consultation with parents and children on the measures the school will put in place to meet their obligations to children and parents within 12 months of the enactment of this Act. 15

### **Prohibition of religions discrimination against children**

6. For greater certainty, nothing in this Act prohibiting discrimination shall be construed as allowing a child to be prevented from being admitted to attend a school on the grounds of their religious beliefs or their parent's religious beliefs.

### **Short title**

7. This Act may be cited as the Equality in Education Act 2015. 20



An Bille um Chomhionannas san Oideachas,  
2015

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# BILLE

*(mar a tionscnaíodh)*

*dá ngairtear*

Acht d'aisghairm, gan eisceacht, forálacha dlí lena gceadaítear idirdhealú a dhéanamh ar fhorais chreidimh i gcoinne leanaí i dtaca le ligean isteach i scoileanna; do chur de chúram ar an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna an curaclam a nuachóiriú agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

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*An Teachta Eoin Ó Broin a thug isteach,  
8 Nollaig, 2015*

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Equality in Education Bill 2015

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# BILL

*(as initiated)*

*entitled*

An Act to repeal without exception provisions of law allowing for discrimination on religious grounds against children in admissions to schools; to mandate the Minister for Education and Skills to modernise the curriculum and to provide for related matters.

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*Introduced by Deputy Jonathan O'Brien,  
8th December, 2015*

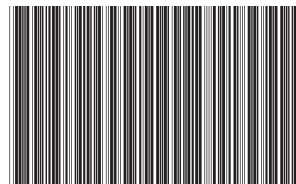
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