

School Toilets (Access During Lessons) Bill

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Require the Secretary of State to publish guidance for state-funded schools on allowing pupil access to toilets during lessons; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Guidance about pupil access to toilets: England

(1) In the Education Act 1996, after section 551 insert—

“Guidance about pupil access to toilets

551A Guidance about pupil access to toilets: England

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) The Secretary of State must issue and publish guidance to the appropriate authorities of relevant schools in England about allowing pupil access to toilets during lessons. | 5 |
| (2) That guidance must — | |
| (a) state that requests from pupils to use the toilet during lessons should not be unreasonably refused; and | 10 |
| (b) provide advice on how pupils can be allowed to use the toilet during lessons whilst minimising classroom disruption. | |
| (3) The appropriate authority of a relevant school must have regard to guidance issued under this section when developing and implementing any school policy relating to access to school toilets. | 15 |
| (4) The Secretary of State may from time to time revise guidance issued under this section. | |
| (5) In this section “relevant school” means — | |
| (a) an Academy school; | |
| (b) an alternative provision Academy; | 20 |
| (c) a maintained school (within the meaning given by section 437(8)); | |

- (d) a non-maintained special school (within the meaning given by section 337A);
 - (e) a pupil referral unit not established in a hospital.
- (6) In this section “the appropriate authority” means –
- (a) in relation to an Academy school, an alternative provision Academy or a non-maintained special school, the proprietor; 5
 - (b) relation to a maintained school, the governing body;
 - (c) in relation to a pupil referral unit, the local authority.

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales. 10
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the School Toilets (Access During Lessons) Act 2020.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 3rd March 2020.*

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