

From: Richy Thompson [mailto:richy@humanism.org.uk]
Sent: 13 September 2012 12:54
To:
Subject: Steiner Academy Frome and testing

Dear ,

I have just seen this: <http://www.nga.org.uk/getattachment/NGA-Pages/NGA-Legal-Services/ACAcademyconversionflyer.pdf.aspx> - mentioning that the Frome Steiner Academy is going to be exempt from testing requirements imposed on other Academies and Free Schools.

I was wondering if you could clarify what specific amendments to the funding agreement were made here. And was anything else amended? If you could provide a copy, that would be helpful.

In addition, the Anthony Collins document could be construed as suggesting that Frome Academy used human rights arguments to get these amendments. Is that correct?

Best wishes,

Richy Thompson

Campaigns Officer (Faith Schools and Education), British Humanist Association
1 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6HD | 020 7462 4993

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From:
Date: 13 September 2012 16:11

Subject: RE: Steiner Academy Frome and testing
To: richy@humanism.org.uk
Cc:

Hi Richy

Thanks for this. I read the document as referring to Steiner Academy Hereford, rather than the Steiner Academy Frome. However, the point about testing applies to both.

Steiner Academy Frome sought and were granted an exemption to the end of Key Stage 1 assessments, which are teacher assessments, the results of which currently have to be reported to parents and to the Department. The Steiner Academy Hereford (the only other existing state funded Steiner school in England) previously negotiated and were granted an exemption to these assessments on the grounds that their curriculum will not have covered the areas assessed by that point. Steiner Academy Frome cited the same reasons for their request.

Both the Steiner Academy Frome and Steiner Academy Hereford are required to participate in Key Stage 2 testing and phonics screening.

In terms of the funding agreement, Steiner Academy Frome has a slightly amended Clause 29 (see red highlights below):

- 29) The Secretary of State will notify the appropriate body for assessment purposes about the Academy.
- a) The Academy Trust shall ensure that the Academy complies with any guidance issued by the Secretary of State from time to time to ensure that pupils take part in assessments and in teacher assessments of pupils' performance as they apply to maintained schools, **other than the end of KS1 assessments.**
 - b) The Academy Trust shall report to any body on assessments under clause 29 as the Secretary of State shall require and shall provide such information as may be required by that body as applies to maintained schools.
 - c) In respect of all Key Stages, the Academy Trust will submit the Academy to monitoring and moderation of its assessment arrangements as required by the Secretary of State, **other than the end of KS1 assessments.**
 - d) The Academy Trust may not offer courses at the Academy which lead to relevant qualifications, unless the Secretary of State gives specific approval for such courses.

Best wishes,

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Free Schools Group

Policy for Free School approval and eligibility

Tel: – Ext: – Web: www.education.gov.uk