

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE
BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 16th JULY 2007

Question

- (a) Would the Minister advise, given the reduction of voting age to 16 years, together with the concentration of schools in some parishes, whether he will put in place measures to ensure that school children are not unduly influenced by their schools as to their choice of candidate(s)?
- (b) Would he also agree to put in place measures to ensure that children are not pressured into feeling they have to vote unless they wish to do so, and explain how this, and the possibility of influence at school, will be prevented?
- (c) Would the Minister indicate how many children aged 16 or above are in education, and would he give an approximate indication of how many at each school?

Answer

- (a) Following the decision of the States to reduce the voting age to 16 years, I have asked officers at the Department for Education, Sport and Culture to consider the implications of this for schools in two respects –
 - (i) whether the existing code of conduct for teachers explicitly precludes them from consciously influencing how young people might vote;
 - (ii) whether this change has implications for the ‘political eligibility’ of teachers as set out in ‘Political Activities by States Employees’, P.17 approved by the States in April 2006;

The Code of Conduct and Practice for Registered Teachers developed by the General Teaching Council for England sets standards of propriety expected of the profession. Conduct which falls short of those standards is considered ‘unacceptable professional conduct’. Teachers in Jersey are registered with the General Teaching Council.

- (b) Again this is something that I would expect to be covered by the Code of Conduct for Registered Teachers. However, I do intend to raise this as a matter for discussion with teachers’ representatives at the next Education Consultative Council which is the forum for the discussion of professional matters between the Department and the teachers’ associations.
- (c) There are 2,076 pupils aged 16 or above in our schools. The distribution is as follows -

SCHOOL	No. PUPILS 16+
Jersey College for Girls	283
Victoria College	268
Beaulieu	175
De La Salle	166
Hautlieu	568
Haute Vallee	147
Grainville	135

Le Rocquier	142
Les Quennevais	148
D'Hautree House	8
Mont a l'Abbé	12
Alternative Curriculum	24