

CHILDREN TO HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS MAELS

The older boys and girls in secondary schools, and teachers, will again be asked to help with the Christmas mails this year in central post offices throughout the country.

The Board of Education is asking authorities tomorrow (Monday) to co-operate as far as possible without encroaching on the normal work of the schools.

The scheme was started last year, when valuable help was given by students. This year the problem will be one of the biggest the Post Office has ever had to face. Nearly 70,000 of the regular Post Office staff are serving with the Forces and the great majority of the people who usually assist during the Christmas pressure are no longer available. The maximum help from boys and girls is, therefore, desired.

The procedure to be followed will be for local Postal Officials to approach local education authorities to find out the general attitude of the authority and the schools in the area. If the authority is favourable, contact will then be made between the Postal Officials and the Headmasters or Headmistresses.

Volunteers will be asked to report for duty or training on December 16. They will be relieved of homework or holiday tasks during their employment.

In no circumstances will children under 15 years of age be employed. They should preferably be over 16. Normally, employment will be for eight hours a day with at least one day free from attendance, but no child under 16 will be required to work for more than 44 hours a week, with suitable breaks for meals etc.

The rate of pay, which will be on an hourly basis, will depend upon the age of the children and the place of employment. The rate will be fixed in consultation with the local Employment Exchange Authorities and the Head Postmaster will seek the views of the respective Headmasters and Headmistresses before it is finally fixed.

---

BOARD OF EDUCATION