

UNISON 2025 AGM NEWSLETTER

Southern Education Branch

Southern Education Branch AGM 2025

It's about You, Your Branch, Your Say and Your Vote Our Branch AGM is the single most important meeting of the year. Every year UNISON requires its branch officers and stewards to stand for re-election. The AGM is your opportunity to have a say in how the branch is run and who will represent you in 2025. Please come along and bring a work colleague. It will still be a great opportunity to meet with other members and UNISON stewards and to find out how UNISON has been active on your behalf during the year. If you would like to become more active in UNISON: Representing your colleagues or becoming involved in solidarity or welfare work, please contact your branch.



AGM MEETING DATES 2025

Lismore College, Craigavon
Monday 20th January
@ 2-4pm

St Anthony's PS, Craigavon
Tuesday 21st January
@ 2.30pm

St Columban's PS, Kilkeel
Mon 27th January
@ 2.45pm

St Patrick's PS Hilltown
Tuesday 28th January
@ 2pm



**NJC pay award must
protect us against cost of
living pressures**

Throughout this year our membership employed by the EA have kept up significant pressure through industrial action, full strike and action short of strike, in pursuit of pay improvement. The long road to a pay and grading review has reached its destination.

NJC pay 2024: The NJC employers side (England, Wales and NI) put an offer of more than 5.2% to UK trade unions. The UNISON NJC committee consulted members in England and Wales who rejected this offer and have now gone to ballot on industrial action. UNISON members in NI had decided to first secure an NI specific deal on pay and grading. We will await outcome of the England and Wales ballot and developments to follow before we decide what we do next.

Throughout 2024, our bargaining team continued working to protect and secure employment rights and health and safety standards for our members who work as classroom assistants, and in school transport, cleaning, catering, estates and youth services.

Our lay team participates directly in all the EA bargaining directorates - operational services (estates, catering, cleaning, transport); children & young peoples services; education (curriculum and services); finance and HR.

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Call 02890270190 or go to www.unison-ni.org.uk/join



Integrated and Voluntary Grammar Schools

Our key goal is to secure a regional negotiating forum for UNISON members on their pay, terms and conditions. This will require Ministerial support and policy direction from the Department.

We have been successful in including funding for members in these schools so they can receive the benefits of the pay and grading review deal. As they are all individual employers we have launched a strategy to mobilise members in each school to pursue these benefits.



Check out the full list of over
500 UNISON College courses
at this URL: bit.ly/2KzKJXA

Membership Services



Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact UNISON Welfare (There for You), which provides confidential advice and support services for members and their dependants.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>



THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS

Receive free legal advice and support on non employment matters from Thompsons, our specialist employment solicitors

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/legal-services/>



Request free expert financial advice from Quilter Financial Advisers, UNISON's financial services partner

<https://benefits.unison.org.uk/home/money/lighthouse-financial-advice/>



AbbeyAutoline offers discount for UNISON members.

<https://www.abbeyautoline.co.uk/>



UNISON is the largest union for Support Workers

Throughout 2024, our bargaining team continued working to protect and secure employment rights and health and safety standards for our members who work as classroom assistants, and in school transport, cleaning, catering, estates and youth services.

Contentious issues that remain include:

- The pay differential for catering and cleaning supervisors
- development of the new EA payroll EA1;
- issues for those on retainer fees during the summer period;
- after school clubs and payment rates;
- the need for a framework recognition agreement with Voluntary Grammar schools and the ever growing integrated sector (all individual employers);
- growing concern around resources for EA youth services;
- implication of the Brazil judgement on the calculation of annual leave for term time workers.

Update your details

Changed name, moved house or have a new number?
Update your details using our online form at:
<https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/update-your-details> or
contact membership services on 028 90270190.

Branch Contacts

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