

UNISON 2025 AGM NEWSLETTER

Belfast Education Branch

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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

Saturday 22nd February
Ten Square Belfast
2pm

Click on the link below to get your ticket
<https://tinyurl.com/925zpm29>

Zoom Meeting

Monday 24th February
4pm - 5.30pm

Scan the QR code to register



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



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

Pay and Grading/NJC Pay

Throughout this year our members working for the Education Authority (EA) have kept up significant pressure through industrial action, full strike and action short of strike, in pursuit of pay improvement. The first stage of the pay and grading review has been completed. Staff have been assimilated to new pay points and staff who were in post in April 2024 will receive £2550 pro rata in April 2025.

Work continues to fix the issue of the pay differentials between supervisors and support staff along with a review of Classroom Assistant roles and their contractual terms, and a review of Catering structures and services.

NJC pay 2024: Agreement has been reached on the new NJC rates for 2024/25. Workers (up to point 43 on the pay scale), will receive a £1,290 increase on each pay point covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. Those workers above point 43 will receive a 2.5% increase in their pay. EA staff will receive the pay award including backdated pay to 1st April 2024 in December's pay.

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 people's services; education (curriculum and services); finance and HR.

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.



Our UNISON 'Free School Meals for All' campaign is a further important intervention aimed at reducing poverty for our members and their families.

We are increasingly concerned by the lack of visible progress on an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Despite the Executive having been restored in February, a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy has yet to be published, consulted upon and adopted.

UNISON has continued to work alongside our allies across civic society to press for an Anti-Poverty Strategy to be put in place without further delay, including through the launch of the report of the seminar held at Stormont in June 2023 on development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy that we reported on last year. UNISON was part of a delegation that gave evidence to the Committee for Communities at the NI Assembly in April regarding the urgent need for an Anti-Poverty Strategy

As a result of our campaign, the Education Minister recently launched a consultation on options for free school meals. UNISON will be submitting a response to the consultation. The consultation closes on 14th February.

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.

Membership Services

there
foryou

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/>

abbeyautoline

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:

- 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.



Branch Contacts

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