

Derry Education Branch AGM Newsletter 2024

Derry Education Annual General Meeting

***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 2024

It will 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

At each AGM there will be £50 voucher draws!

There will also be a mystery prize draw to the value of £500 for all members who attend, to be drawn at the last AGM!

Monday 5th February 2024
Knockavoe Special School, Strabane
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday 6th February 2024
Rossmar Special School, Limavady
3.15pm - 4.15pm

Wednesday 7th February 2024
Lisneal College, L'Derry
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Thursday 8th February 2024
Pilots Row Youth Centre ,L'Derry
1.30pm– 2.00pm

Monday 12th February 2024
Arndashee School & College, L'Derry
3.15pm - 4.15pm

OUR STARS HAVE COME OUT ON STRIKE!



Thousands of UNISON members have decided to stand up and be counted. They have decided they have been waiting too long. **They want pay justice.**

In 2019 discussions on pay reform were promised. The Covid pandemic stalled movement. Education workers understood that, but efforts to get negotiations going have ground to a halt. Members recognise there is some goodwill in the Education Authority to get this matter sorted, but the EA continue to tell us there is no agreed funding to support negotiations. The Department of Education has been sitting on the fence. Where is their voice in support of this just cause? The Northern Ireland Secretary of State, now responsible for the Education budget should be told in no uncertain terms that asking workers to wait until an Executive and the Assembly returns is just not good enough.



NJC PAY AWARD 2022/23

The NJC pay uplift (covering NI, England and Wales) due since April 1st 2023 has finally been agreed. We recently updated members on the long delay in resolving this issue. Efforts to improve on the offer were unsuccessful and it has taken some months to confirm that members of the negotiating unions would accept the initial offer. These payments are due to be paid in December payroll.

Our NJC committee is continuing negotiations for the 2023/24 pay award.



UNISON College offers over 700 different course topics to our members each year. Ranging from in person accredited learning to virtual and eLearning CPD modules. We offer E learning modules through the skills academy and Nursing times CPD Zone. These are fully funded for all UNISON members. Additionally, we offer learning grants, funded places on K102 Open University modules, in person and virtual sessions.

Our sessions can be booked via our app or by emailing educationni@unison.co.uk

You can access our education grants; eLearning modules and application forms and pre-recorded lectures by scanning this code.



YOU could be a UNISON Learning Rep!

Any UNISON member who is interested in learning and enjoys helping people can become a union learning rep (ULR). If you are interested in education and enjoy helping other people, you could join us and help encourage your colleagues to return to learning.

For further information, contact Marianne Buick on 07761 750 743 or email m.buick@unison.co.uk



MEMBERS IN VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR, INTEGRATED & IRISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

UNISON members within Education Authority (EA) schools have just recently been balloted to take strike action against their employer (EA) on the grading structure.

In schools who have **recently** changed status to integrated, UNISON support staff members who remain on EA contracts are entitled to be involved in this dispute. Members in Integrated and Voluntary Grammar Schools who don't have EA contracts are not covered in this dispute, and you ask:

WHY NOT?

The strike is with Education Authority, although your school is funded by them your school is not part of the negotiating structure. If the NJC grading structure is improved as a result of the upcoming industrial action, we will seek that these changes apply to you also. Once NJC new rates have been agreed, UNISON will seek to have these applied to support staff in your schools, if your employer refuses you can decide to dispute, UNISON will support. UNISON will be pursuing for non EA schools to be included in the bargaining structure for support staff when a new Education Minister is appointed.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE SURVEY

UNISON recently conducted a survey on workplace violence experienced by support staff working in a classroom setting.

Out of responses received, 66% reported being worried about violent behaviour from pupils, with 57% experiencing or observing violent incidents towards staff on a daily or weekly basis. Respondents reported a lack of support from management and a feeling of normalisation of violence.

UNISON Northern Ireland plans to use these survey findings and feedback to the campaign to make the workplace safer and more sustainable for support staff. If you're currently working in a similar role and would like to get involved in a campaign, please either contact your local branch reps or the UNISON NI Regional Centre on 028 90 270190.

RETAINER PAYMENTS

The EA has made proposals to trade union side which they state will improve payments as the school year ends. These will be discussed with your branch reps to ensure we get feedback from members. An update will be circulated once this consultation is complete

GREEN UNISON

Green UNISON is a new campaign calling on employers across the public sector to decarbonise public services. Members and activists have a crucial role to play in greening our public services and ensuring a just transition to a low carbon and sustainable economy. Members in Education are especially encouraged to get involved. Sign up to our Green UNISON Network.

Membership Services

UNISON Welfare – 'There For You'

The Branch want to remind you to use this service which is FREE to all UNISON members and is there for you at times of difficulty and crisis. For full details please see UNISON's website www.unison.org.uk/get-help/

Legal Advice

Thompson's NI our specialist employment solicitors. For free legal advice and support on Personal injury and non-employment matters, contact: **0808 252 2783**

Lighthouse Financial Advice

Lighthouse Financial Advice can help you resolve financial issues whatever your circumstances or stage in life
08000 85 85 90 / emailappointments@lighthousefa.co.uk

Derry Education Branch Contacts

Joint Branch Secretaries:

Samantha Bronze, 07710 618 668
Peter Gillen, unisondeb@gmail.com

Regional Organiser:

Conor McCarthy, 07887 935136

Area Organiser:

Noreen Robinson, 07976 217 080

UNISON Direct - 0800 0 857 857

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Derry Education Branch

