



DOWN EDUCATION BRANCH AGM Newsletter 2024

Down Education Branch AGM 2024

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 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.

AGM Meeting Dates

**23rd Feb @ 7pm
Teddy's, Bangor**

**1st March @ 7pm
Murphy's Downpatrick**

**8th March @ 7pm
Beechlawn Hotel, Dunmurry**

**Online AGM
22nd February @ 7pm**

Our AGM will be held via the Zoom online platform as well as in person. Zoom is free to download on tablet or smartphone, or can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>.

You can register to join the AGM on Zoom in a number of ways:

1. Follow this URL: <https://rb.gy/fobs9a>
2. Scan the QR code below on a mobile or tablet
3. Join using: **Meeting ID: 883 4055 1000**
Passcode: AGM2024



SCAN ME

UNISON Demands Pay Justice Now!

Thousands of UNISON members have decided to stand up and be counted. They have been waiting too long for the EA to undertake a pay and grading review. On the 16th of November thousands of UNISON members took to the picket lines in pursuit of 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 funding to support negotiations. The department of Education have 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



NJC PAY AWARD 2023/24

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 the December payroll.

Our NJC committee will be starting negotiations for 2024/25

NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

Call Membership on 028 9027 0190 or join online <https://join.unison.org.uk>



Some of our members celebrating Stars in our Schools week! We celebrate this week each year to show our appreciation for the work our members do!

Update Your Details

Check your membership status by checking your payslip for deductions or your bank for direct debit. If this is not up to date, then you may **NOT** be a UNISON member. Please contact membership services on 028 90270190 to update your details.

Changed your name, moved house or have a new number? You can update your details using our online form. Go to <https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/update-your-details>

Free School Meals For All

Free School Meals for All: The Free School Meals working group, established by Regional Committee, has continued to take forward our campaign calling for universal free school meal provision for all children and young people. The campaign has been

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% report 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 contact your local branch reps.



For branch news follow our Facebook Page.
Search: **UNISON Down Education Branch**

Down Education Branch Supporting our Members

Over the past year the Down Education branch has:

- Provided guidance to members on Health & Safety issues and risk assessments
- Assisted members through the ill health retirement process
- Provided ongoing advice and representation to members facing disciplinarys and workplace issues.
- Resolved a number of issues raised by both our classroom assistants and cleaning members
- Represented our members at all Education Authority, voluntary grammars and integrated schools.
- Successfully had contracts made permanent and had contracts regraded for lots of members
- Assisted members with UNISON welfare applications



UNISON College offer 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 can be found by **scanning the QR code on the right.**



BRANCH CONTACTS

Joint Branch Secretary: Kevin Hillick
07743101419

Joint Branch Secretary: Melanie Wright
07966614896

Regional Organiser: Joe McCusker
028 90270190
j.mccusker@unison.co.uk

Area Organiser: Claire Bolt
028 90270190
c.bolt@unison.co.uk

UNISON Direct - 0800 0857 857