

North Eastern Education Branch AGM Newsletter 2024

NEEB 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 you will be entered in a raffle for anyone who joins at least one meeting.

Monday 26th February

3.15pm, Hillcroft School **and**
7.00pm Magherafelt High School

Tuesday 27th February

3.15pm, Sandelford School

Wednesday 28th February

3.15pm, Riverside School

Thursday 29th February

3.15 pm, Castletower School **and**
7pm Online via Zoom, Link below

One AGM will be held via the **Zoom** online platform. **Zoom** is free to download on tablet or smartphone, or can be accessed.

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

1. Click here <https://tinyurl.com/2p92hkjp>
2. Scan the QR Code
3. Access the Zoom website <https://zoom.us/>



SCAN ME

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.

We have now asked the Education Authority to confirm payment and make all necessary arrangements to ensure education workers are paid without delay. The payments are to be paid in December payroll including back pay. Our NJC Committee continues negotiations for 2023/24.

THOUSANDS OF UNISON MEMBERS TOOK TO THE PICKET LINE!

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.



Not yet a UNISON Member? Join Today

Call membership on 028 9027 0190 or join online: www.joinunison.org

Mid & East Antrim Council

A joint Trade Union 'Pay and Conditions Claim' was submitted to M&EA Council. Following negotiations with the Council, in addition to the NJC pay award of £1925 for 2022/23:

Staff were moved up two spinal points on the salary scale.

A commitment was given to reviewing the job evaluation model and a review would be undertaken to convert casual posts into permanent posts.

Negotiations are also ongoing with the Council on an organisational wide service structure review.

Bryson Recycling

Members in Bryson Recycling returned a resounding 'yes' vote for strike action. This resulted in a series of intensive negotiations with the employer at the Labour Relations Agency where we were able to achieve an improved pay award for staff.

Drivers and Loaders received an increase of between £1,000 to £1,200 on their annual salary along with the introduction of a daily payment for helping out other crews on collections in other areas.

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 are our specialist employment solicitors. For free legal advice and support on personal injury and non-employment matters, contact: **0800 0857 857**

Quilter Financial Advisor

Quilter Financial Advisor can help you resolve financial issues whatever your circumstances or stage in life **08000 85 85 90** or emailappointments@quilterfa.co.uk

Update Your Details/Draw

Check your membership status by checking your pay slip for deductions or your bank for direct debit. If this is not up to date, then you may **NOT** be a UNISON member and you may miss out on branch draws which take place during the year.

Please contact membership services on 028 9027 0190 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>

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 are currently working in a similar role and would like to get involved in a campaign please either contact your local branch reps or UNISON Head Office on 028 9027 0190.



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 m.buick@unison.co.uk 07761 750 743

NE Education Branch Contacts

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