

UNISON 2025 AGM NEWSLETTER

North Eastern Education Branch

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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

Monday 17th February 2025

Hill Croft School, Newtownabbey
3.00pm - 4.00pm
Magherafelt High School, Magherafelt.
7.00pm - 8.00pm

Tuesday 18th February 2025

Sandelford Special School, Coleraine
3.15pm - 4.15pm

Wednesday 19th February 2025

Crumlin Integrated College, Crumlin
3.45pm - 4.45pm

Thursday 20th February 2025

Castle Tower School, Ballymena
3.15pm - 4.15pm

Monday 24th February 2025

St Joseph's Primary School, Antrim
3.15pm - 4.15pm



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

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 all staff in post on 1st 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 pro rata 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. At this point in time we await confirmation from the EA when staff will be paid their new rates and backdated 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.

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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:

- 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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