



All Different

All Equal

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Anti-Bullying Week 2017 13th – 17th November

The 13th November marked the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week (ABW) 2017, a very important awareness week in the calendar year. This year ABW17 promotes difference and equality in schools with the tag-line 'all

different, all equal'. The idea is to help children and young people celebrate what makes them, and others, unique and to ensure that every child in school or outside of schools feels included and able to be themselves without the fear of bullying.

The aims of ABW17 are to:

- Empower children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique
- Help children and young people understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, able to be themselves, without fear of bullying
- Encourage parents and carers to work with their school and talk to their children about bullying, difference and equality
- Enable teachers and other children's workforce professionals to celebrate what makes us 'all different, all equal' and celebrate difference and equality. Encouraging them to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves.

Member schools can find out more about Anti Bullying Week and show their support [here](#)

10b Permits Minibus Consultation

As you will be aware, the Department of Infrastructure released a consultation aimed at clarifying the licensing requirements for all those who are seeking to provide bus passenger transport. The consultation looks at proposed changes to the section 10b permit and revised guidance on minibus driving requirements. A link to the consultation can be accessed [here](#) .

Following the threat of legal action, the Department of Infrastructure attempted to clarify its guidance in an [announcement](#) made on the 6th November, but in reality the statement provided little new information. On 13th November the Department issued a further clarification letter to schools.

Earlier this month the GBA, along with representatives from other education bodies, attended a meeting with the Department of Infrastructure

to update them on the consequences of the new guidance for the sector. Following the meeting the Education Authority reissued its guidance from June 2017 “all driving of a minibus in connection with employment irrespective as to whether it is incidental or integral to the employment, i.e. whether driving duties are outlined on a job description or not, must be undertaken by a driver who holds a D1 licence by test and a driver’s qualification card.”

To help inform our response the GBA surveyed members and found that:

- 93% of respondents will be unable to cover the cost of the changes;
- 89% of respondents indicated that the changes will impact on extra-curricular provision
- 90% of respondents indicated the changes to guidance will impact on delivery of the curriculum.

The GBA is encouraging all member schools to respond to the consultation, we previously issued a briefing note to help inform responses.

As well as meeting the Department of Infrastructure, the GBA has met with the Education Authority and political parties to press for support for mitigation measures. The GBA will also be discussing the matter with the Department of Education Permanent Secretary Derek Baker when we meet him later this month.

Financial Challenges Facing Post Primary Schools

The GBA joined forces with the Association of School and College Leaders Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Voluntary Grammar Schools Bursars’ Association, the Association of Controlled Grammar Schools and the Catholic Heads Association to highlight the financial challenges facing post primary schools.

In a statement to the press, the statement outlined the challenges caused by a lack of funding, including:

- A reduction in subject choices at GCSE and A Level
- Even larger class sizes
- A potentially shorter school day and/or shorter school week

- Poorer learning environments with cuts in maintenance, administration, technical support, cleaning and resources
- An increase in non-specialist teachers delivering the curriculum
- Reduced educational opportunities for a generation of pupils

The organisations also called for major and urgent reform of the educational estate and administrative structures across Northern Ireland to develop greater financial efficiency and flexibility with a clear and direct benefit to pupils.

LGBT Post Primary school experiences

The Department of Education published [research](#) on the Post-primary school experiences of 16-21 year old people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender in September 2017. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education, is convening a meeting of education providers to discuss the research, raise awareness and share best practice on 5th December. If you would like to input into the work of this group or provide feedback please contact nuala@gbani.org .



Area Planning update

Area Planning Local Groups continue to meet to develop a draft Area Plan for 2018-19. In localities where there are cross sectoral proposals, sub groups have been or are in the process of being formed to develop agreed

area planning solutions. Identified areas for subgroups include Magherafelt, Belfast and Dungannon.

Area Planning representatives are:

Area Planning Steering Group	Nuala O'Neill
Area Planning Working Group	Finbarr McCallion

Area Planning Locality 1 Ronnie Hassard

Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon

Fermanagh & Omagh

Mid Ulster

Area Planning Locality 2 Ronnie Hassard

Antrim and Newtonabbey

Causeway Coast and Glens

Derry City and Strabane

Mid and East Antrim

Area Planning Locality 3 Geraldine Pettigrew

Newry, Mourne and Down

Ards and North Down

Lisburn and Castlereagh

Belfast

GBA to meet with Derek Baker

Representatives from the GBA Executive Committee will be meeting with the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Education, Derek Baker, in late November to discuss several key issues. This meeting will cover the following topics:

- Area planning
- Industrial action
- School finance
- Minibuses

Advertise a Teaching/Non-Teaching Vacancy

As you may be aware the GBA can host teaching and non-teaching vacancies on its website www.gbani.org and the information is also shared on our twitter account. This service is free of charge for all member schools. Details of vacancies should be sent to administrator@gbani.org, please allow one working day for the vacancy to be updated. Please follow the GBA Twitter account [@gbani_jobs](https://twitter.com/gbani_jobs).

Website and Twitter

Please visit our website on the following link <http://www.gbani.org/>
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