GBA Welcomes NIAC Report on Education Funding

The GBA has called for an urgent overhaul of school funding following the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee report on Education Funding.

The GBA welcomed the Committee's acknowledgement that there are unmanageable pressures on school budgets and schools urgently need more funding to address growing pressures.

As the representative body for the 50 voluntary grammar schools in Northern Ireland, the GBA is well aware of the financial pressures outlined in the report and consistently advocates for greater funding for education in Northern Ireland. In oral and written evidence to the inquiry, the GBA stated the levels of funding allocated in the education budget were not sufficient to maintain let alone improve educational outcomes.

The finance survey recently conducted by the GBA showed an average of 88.8% of delegated school budgets are spent on staffing costs. In some cases, schools spent over 95% of their annual budgets on teaching staff. Given this position schools have very limited options for discretionary spend.

Terry McDaid, Chairman of the GBA stated, "After a decade of real-term funding cuts a review of education funding is long overdue. Until now schools have been forced to absorb the real terms reduction to the budget which has lead to increasing numbers of schools in deficit. This cannot be sustained, budget allocations for education must rise not only in line with inflation but also reflect the increasing numbers of pupils in the system.

If funding continues at current levels there will undoubtedly be a detrimental impact on curricular and extra-curricular opportunities available to pupils."

Irish News coverage of the Report featuring Terry McDaid's comments

Education Authority Board Nomination

In March 2019 the Permanent Secretary reappointed Board Members of the Education Authority for a one-year term. Our representative on the Board, Sir Gerry Loughran, has indicated that he will not seek a further term on the Board when his term ends in March 2020. We would like to thank Sir Gerry for his strong leadership and valuable contribution during his tenure as a Board member.

The GBA is now beginning the process of shortlisting candidates to represent the Voluntary Grammar sector on the Board and the Executive has agreed the following criteria for the appointment:

- The nominee must be a serving Governor of a Voluntary Grammar School with a term of office extending to at least 3 years of the EA Board appointment (due to the time commitment and potential conflicts of interest, Teacher Governors will not be eligible).

- The nominee must be either a serving member of the GBA Executive or willing to become a member, either elected or co-opted, with a period of office extending to the end of the EA Board appointment.
- The nominee must be able to devote sufficient time to EA Board membership duties. This may not be possible for persons in full-time employment unless self-employed or with enough flexibility in working arrangements.

Please note that the Department may require more than one nominee from which to make an appointment.

Terry McDaid, the GBA Chairman will be writing to your school to encourage your Board of Governors to make a nomination. Nominations should be sent to nuala@gbani.org by 5.00pm on 31st October 2019.

Shared Education

Applications to both the CASE programme and the mainstreamed Shared Education Signature Project are now closed as both programmes are full.

The Education Authority is working with the Department of Education to establish mechanisms to enable applications in the future from schools who have not yet participated in a shared education programme.

The GBA is compiling a list of member schools who have not taken part in either the CASE or Signature programmes but would be interested in taking part in a shared education programme.

Please contact nuala@gbani.org if you wish to be considered for a future programme.

Supporting Newcomer Pupils

The Department of Education (DE) has launched a public consultation on Supporting Newcomer Pupils.

The current Newcomer Policy was put in place in 2009. The Department of Education is reviewing the policy with the aim to ensure it is effective and reflects current and future needs. They are particularly interested in the views of current and former Newcomer Pupils and all those involved in their education, including families, school principals, teachers, school support staff and community organisations.

If you wish to respond you can do so by completing the online survey below: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/D8DL83H

The consultation is open until Tuesday, 15 October 2019 at 5.00 pm.

GBA Executive

The GBA Executive last met on Wednesday, 26th June 2019. Members discussed school finances, Area Planning, discipline and expulsions, the transformation agenda and education funding.

The GBA hopes to continue engaging with our members by holding meetings in schools across Northern Ireland. If your school is interested in hosting an Executive meeting, please contact the GBA office by emailing nuala@gbani.org or call +44(0) 28 9031 2259.

The scheduled meetings for the Executive in 2019/20 are as follows:
Wednesday, 25th September 2019
Wednesday, 23rd October 2019
Wednesday, 27th November 2019
Wednesday, 18th December 2019
Wednesday, 22nd January 2020
Wednesday, 26th February 2020
Wednesday, 29th April 2020

Wednesday, 27th May 2020
Wednesday, 24th June 2020

Finance Survey

Thank you for contributing to the GBA finance survey. We appreciate the 43 responses we received. This high level of feedback will allow the GBA to use the information as an accurate, valid representation of the voluntary grammar sector.

Responses have now been collated and analysed. The GBA will use the information as a basis to advocate for increased funding in upcoming meetings with Department officials and political representatives.

Teaching and Non-Teaching Vacancies

We would like to remind you that the GBA can host Teaching and Non-Teaching vacancies. The vacancies will be shared on social media through our @gbani_jobs twitter account and appear on the GBA website.

If you would like the GBA to host a vacancy, please send details of the job title, job description and a link to the vacancy on your website, to nuala@gbani.org.

Upcoming Events

Event	Host	Date	Cost
Annual Conference	Self NI	17th September 2019	Free
Skills Northern Ireland	Prospects Events	20th – 21st November 2019	Free

Save the date
The next GBA Annual General Meeting will take place in Riddel Hall, Queen's

University Belfast, on Tuesday, 24th March 2020.

Website and Twitter

Please visit the Governing Bodies Association website on the following link.

Follow us on Twitter @gbani_jobs.

Email Subscription

If you wish to unsubscribe to these emails, please let us know via email (e) Nuala@gbani.org.