



Independent Review of Education - GBA Survey

Education Minister Peter Weir recently announced his intention to establish an [Independent Review of Education](#). The next stage of the process will be the announcement of the panel members.

This is expected to be a fundamental review of the Northern Ireland education system with the potential to radically re-shape design, delivery and provision.



The GBA is currently formulating a response to the review which will require information from our member schools.

In order to obtain this information **we will be issuing a survey in June 2021** via email to Principals and Chairs of the Board of Governors. We understand there are a lot of demands on your time but the survey will be designed so that it does not take too much time to complete. Your responses are important and will help inform our response to the review.

WJEC Qualifications Update

The Education Minister has announced that WJEC AS/A-level qualifications will continue to be available to schools in Northern Ireland.

The Minister advised that there was a concern about the direction of travel in the Welsh education system and that this was being kept under review. Assurances have now been received that will enable schools to continue

to access the WJEC AS/ A Level qualifications after September 2022.

This follows significant engagement by the GBA including meeting with the Minister to raise concerns on behalf of member schools. Thank you for providing your feedback on the matter.



Submission of Audited Accounts 2020/21

The Education Authority has issued a letter to schools stating that the deadline for submission of accounts for the 2020/21 financial year is Thursday 30th September 2021 (or earlier if possible).

The letter and link to an updated version of the S40a is available [here](#).

School Meetings - Guidance Update

COVID-19 guidance on school meetings was recently updated on 21st May stating that meetings of 6 or more adults in schools are now permitted (with mitigations in place). Full details and guidance updates are available [here](#).



Northern Ireland Assembly Updates

As you will likely be aware, the Education Minister made a [statement](#) to the Assembly on 17th May regarding a return to formal examinations in 2021/22. The Minister advised that a unit of study will be omitted from most A Level and GCSE qualifications. Assessment will be significantly reduced to account for the disruption in teaching and learning this year and to take account of the emotional health and wellbeing needs of children and young people. It is expected that schools will be informed of the details in June 2021.

Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

The GBA provides a free advertising service for our member schools. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page. There is also a link to our job listings on the Education Authority website in the job opportunities section.

As we are currently receiving a high volume of job requests, please use our [job template](#) and allow one working day for posts to be uploaded. This does not include bank holidays and weekends.

If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, please [contact us](#).

Area Planning

As you will be aware, the GBA represents voluntary grammar schools on the various Area Planning Groups. Discussions regarding the next Strategic Area Plan are underway. If you have any ideas for area solutions in your location please [contact us](#).

Information on current published Development Proposals is available [here](#). This includes the formal proposal and associated Case for Change.

Shared Education

Sharing through the curriculum and extra-curricular activity are some ways in which the vision of shared education can be achieved. The Department is also exploring ideas such as shared management of projects across schools from all sectors.

If you would like any views taken forward or have any comments, [please get in touch](#).

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